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VISIONOS 26

VISION PRO UPDATES

MAJOR FEATURES COMING TO APPLE'S HEADSET

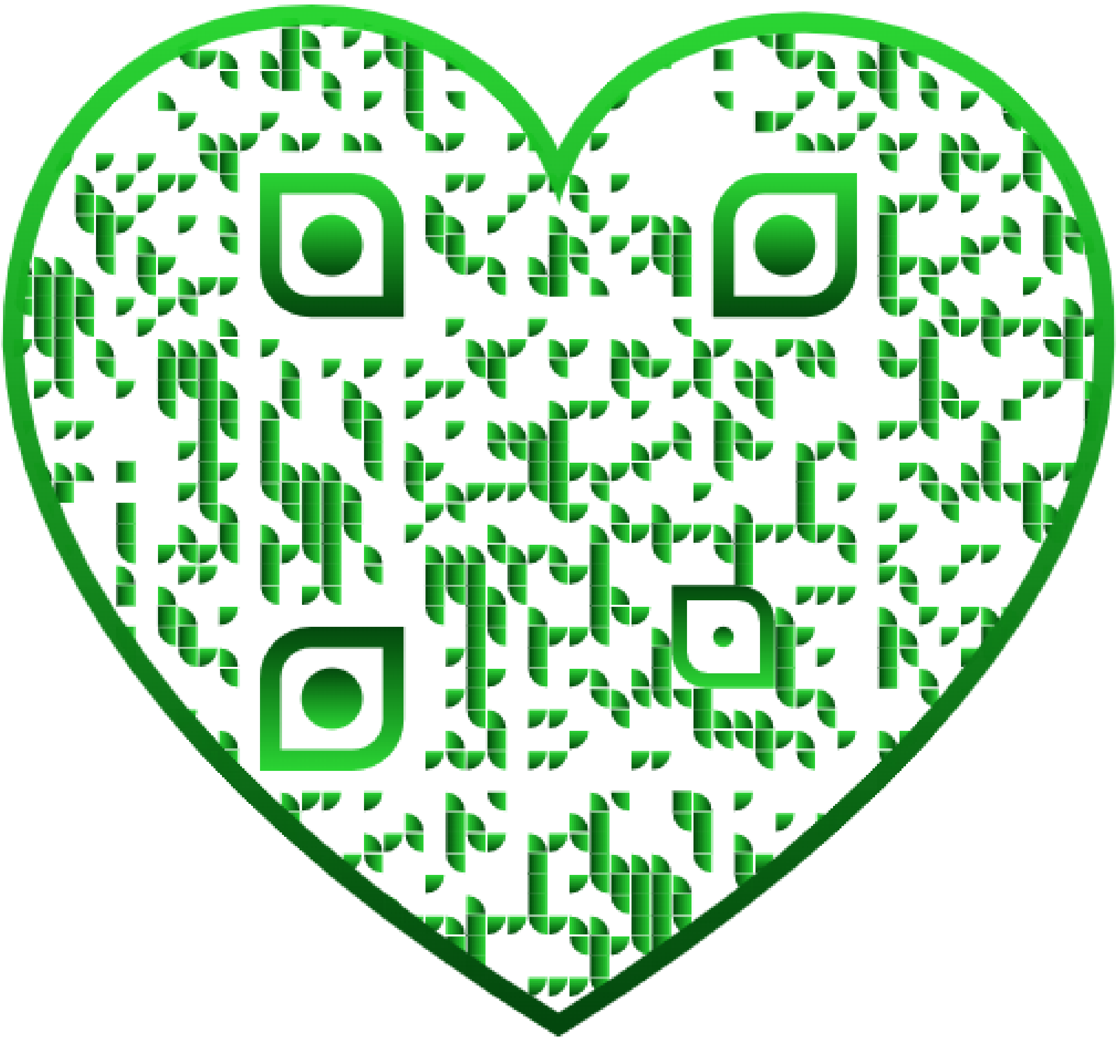
SPOTIFY

SONG ON DEMAND

PLATFORM ENDS SHUFFLE RESTRICTIONS ON FREE TIER

iPhone 17

A19 PERFORMANCE, FLUID XDR DISPLAY, AND INTELLIGENT CAMERA FEATURES



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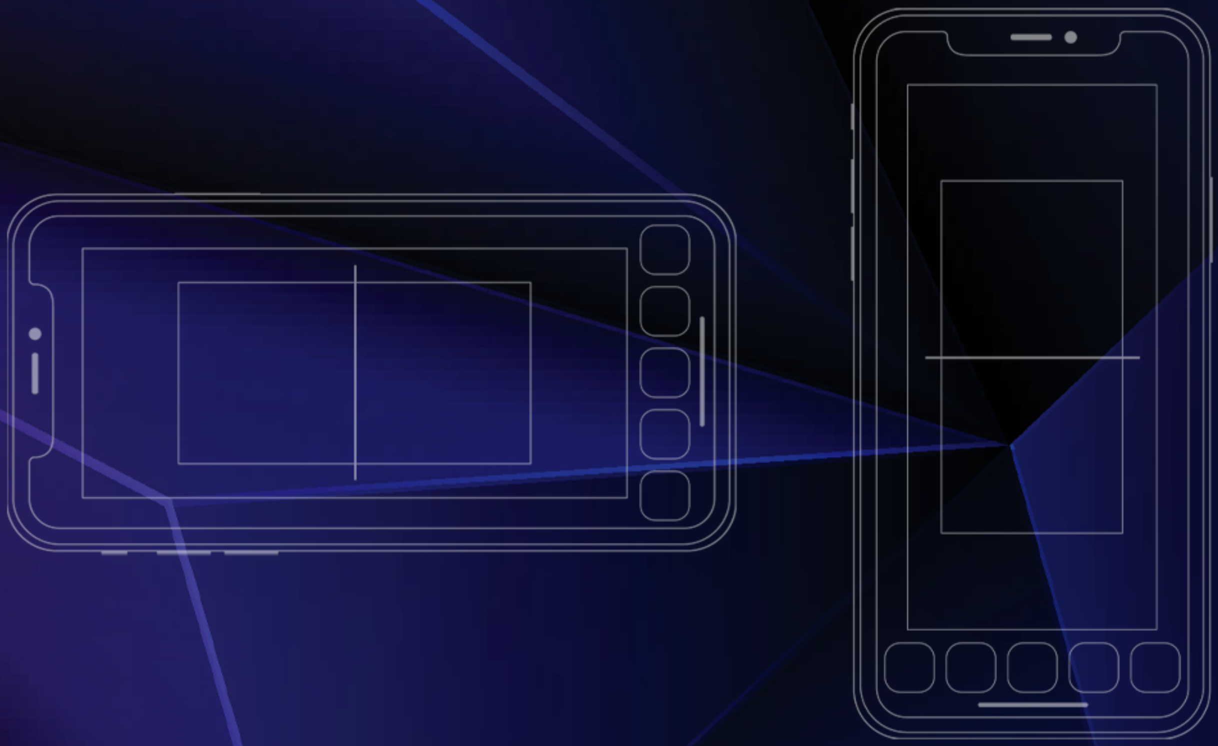

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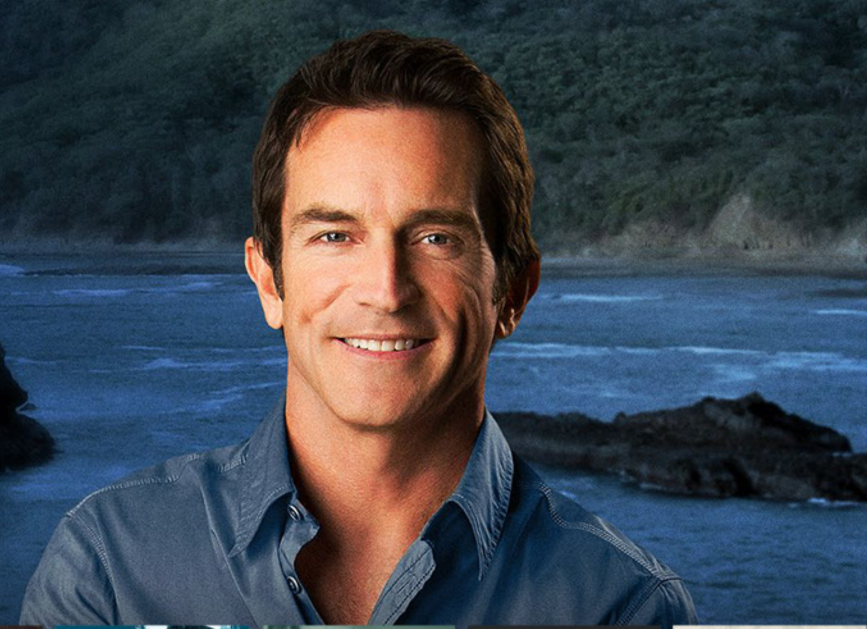

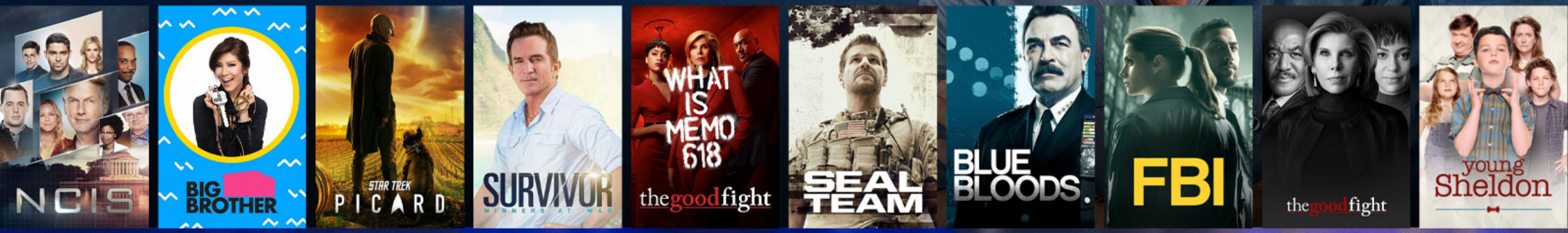
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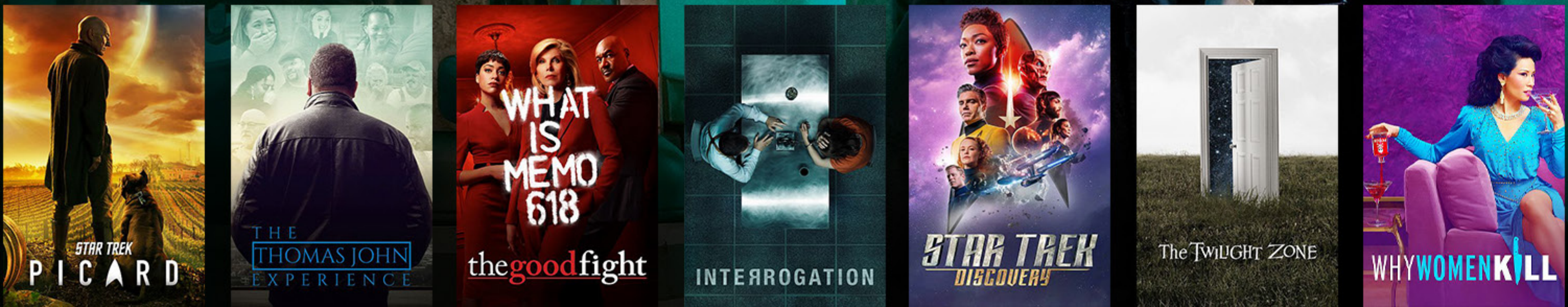
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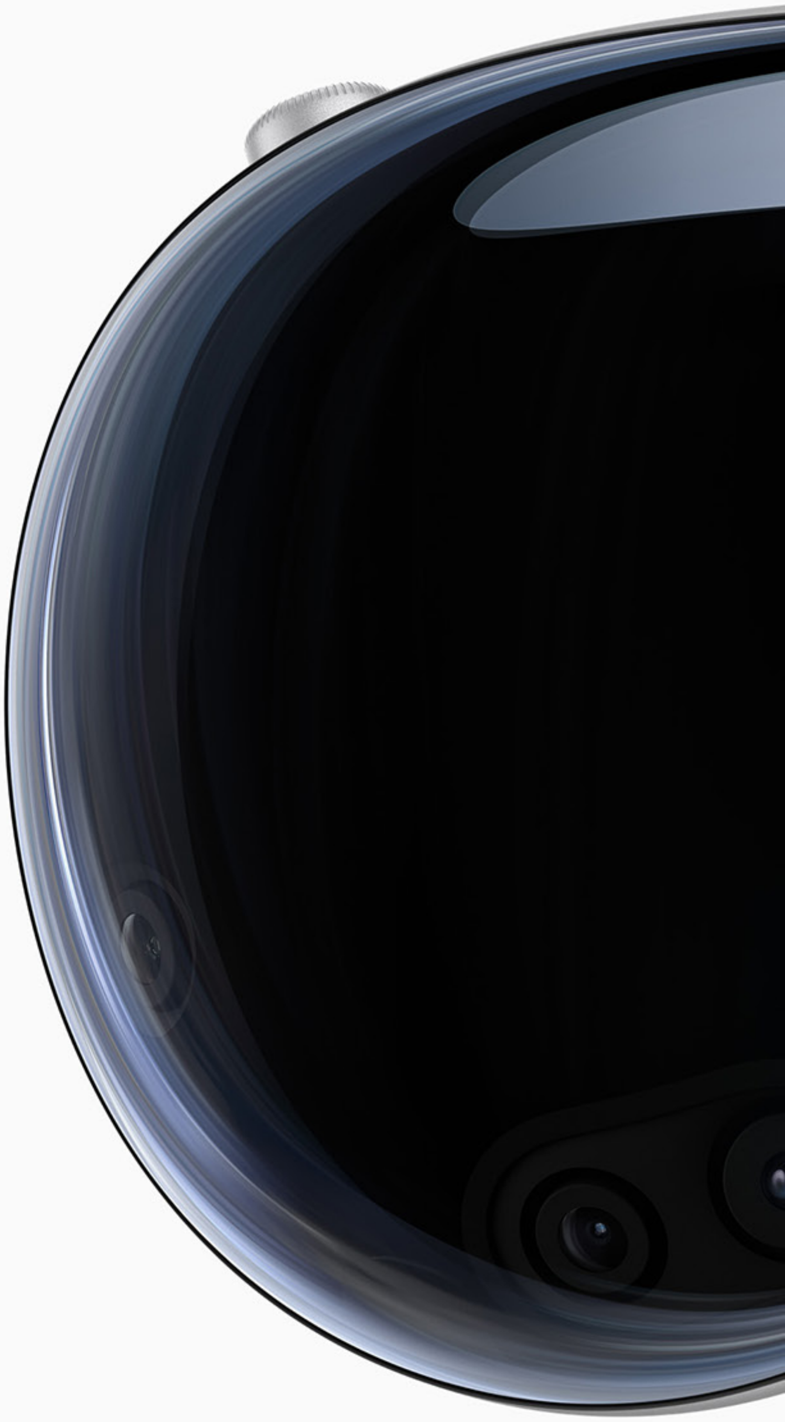


Apple has announced visionOS 26, the newest version of its mixed reality operating system for the Vision Pro headset, and it introduces a wide range of improvements designed to make the device more useful, more comfortable, and more integrated into the broader Apple ecosystem. While Vision Pro is still in its early adoption phase, Apple is moving quickly to refine the platform, responding to feedback from developers and early users.

A MORE NATURAL USER EXPERIENCE

One of the most significant updates in visionOS 26 is a suite of improvements to eye- and hand-tracking. Apple has refined the algorithms that power its gaze-based interface, making it faster at recognizing subtle gestures and better at adapting to different lighting conditions. For users, this translates into less effort when selecting apps, navigating menus, or scrolling content.

Developers say these refinements address one of the biggest early complaints: slight lag or misalignment when interacting with objects. Apple claims the update makes the experience feel closer to "invisible computing," where gestures feel natural rather than learned.

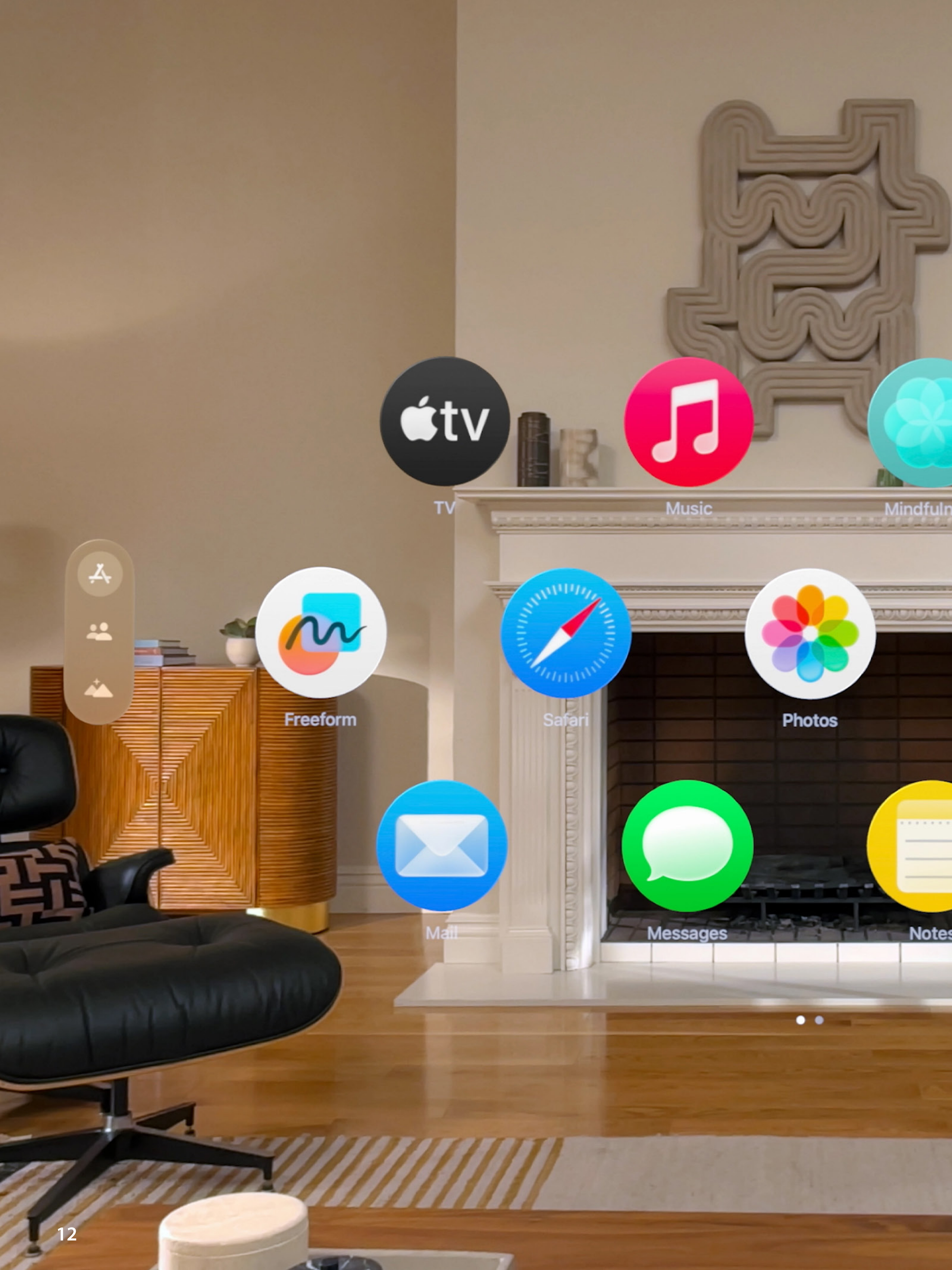
NEW MULTITASKING TOOLS

visionOS 26 also introduces expanded multitasking capabilities. Users can now pin more apps around them in 3D space and switch between clusters of apps with new hand gestures. Apple has also added Quick Arrange, which automatically organizes windows into optimized layouts, reducing the need to manually resize or reposition apps.

For professionals using Vision Pro as a productivity tool, these changes could be significant. The headset is increasingly being marketed not just as a media device but as a mobile workspace, where multitasking fluidity is critical.

APPLE INTELLIGENCE INTEGRATION

As part of Apple's broader strategy, Apple Intelligence features are now built directly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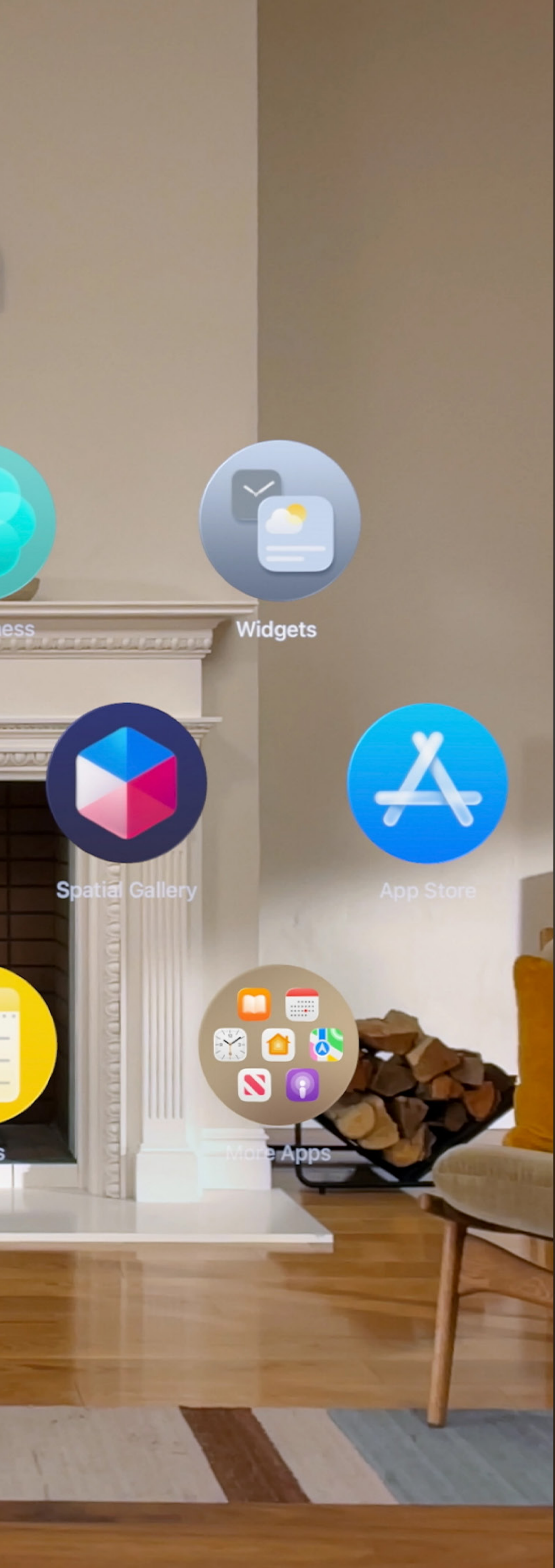


into visionOS 26. This includes system-wide tools for summarizing long documents, drafting text in 3D apps, and even generating immersive environments for brainstorming or collaboration sessions.

With Siri now enhanced by Apple Intelligence, users can perform more complex actions, such as "Open my work apps, dim the room, and summarize today's emails"—all handled through natural voice commands.

MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT ENHANCEMENTS

On the entertainment side, Apple has made improvements to Spatial Video and Immersive Audio playback. visionOS 26 introduces dynamic sound adaptation that adjusts spatial audio based on subtle head movements, making movies and concerts feel more lifelike.

Apple TV+ integration has been expanded, with immersive content libraries now including more sports broadcasts in 3D. For gaming, Apple Arcade titles running on Vision Pro now feature lower-latency controllers and enhanced graphics scaling.

BETTER DEVICE INTEGRATION

Apple is also emphasizing tighter integration with the iPhone, iPad, and Mac. With Continuity features in visionOS 26, users can start an email on their MacBook, pick it up inside Vision Pro, and then finish it later on an iPad—all with synced windows. Universal Clipboard now works seamlessly across devices, and AirDrop transfers appear in the headset as interactive 3D objects.

These improvements reinforce Apple's vision of Vision Pro as part of its ecosystem, rather than a standalone device.

ACCESSIBILITY AND COMFORT

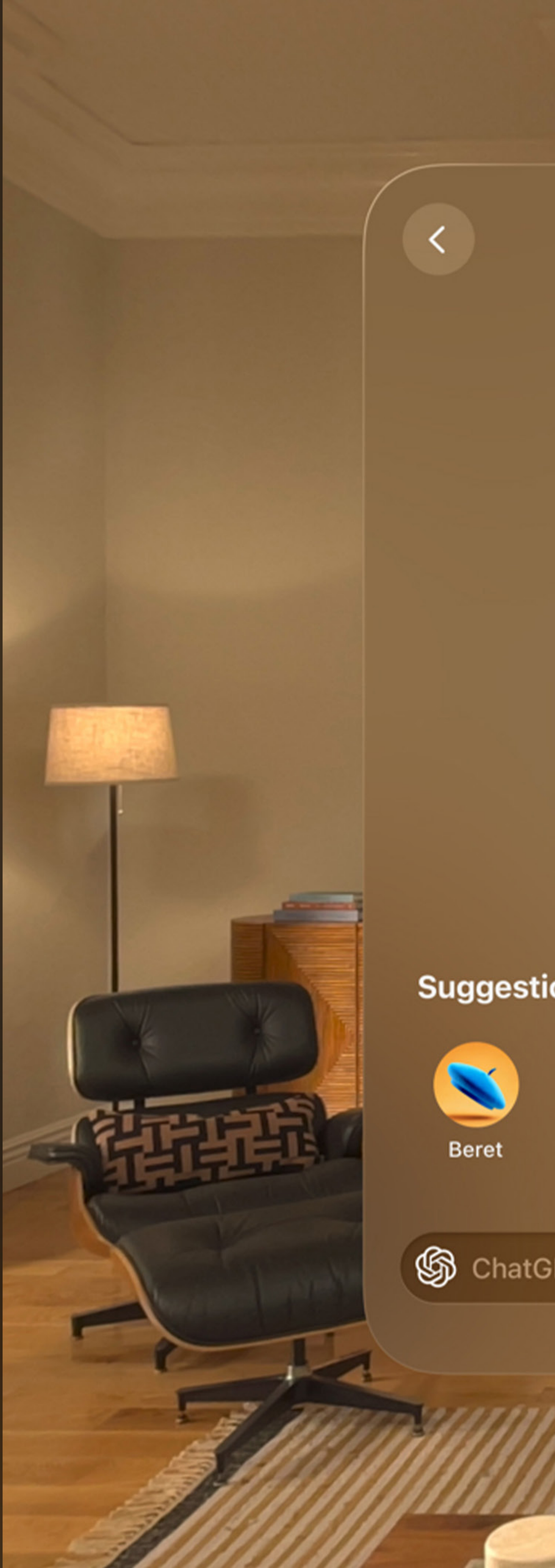
visionOS 26 includes new accessibility options, such as voice-guided navigation for users with limited mobility and customizable contrast settings for those with visual sensitivities. Apple has also tuned system performance to reduce eye strain and motion fatigue, which were concerns for some early adopters during long sessions.

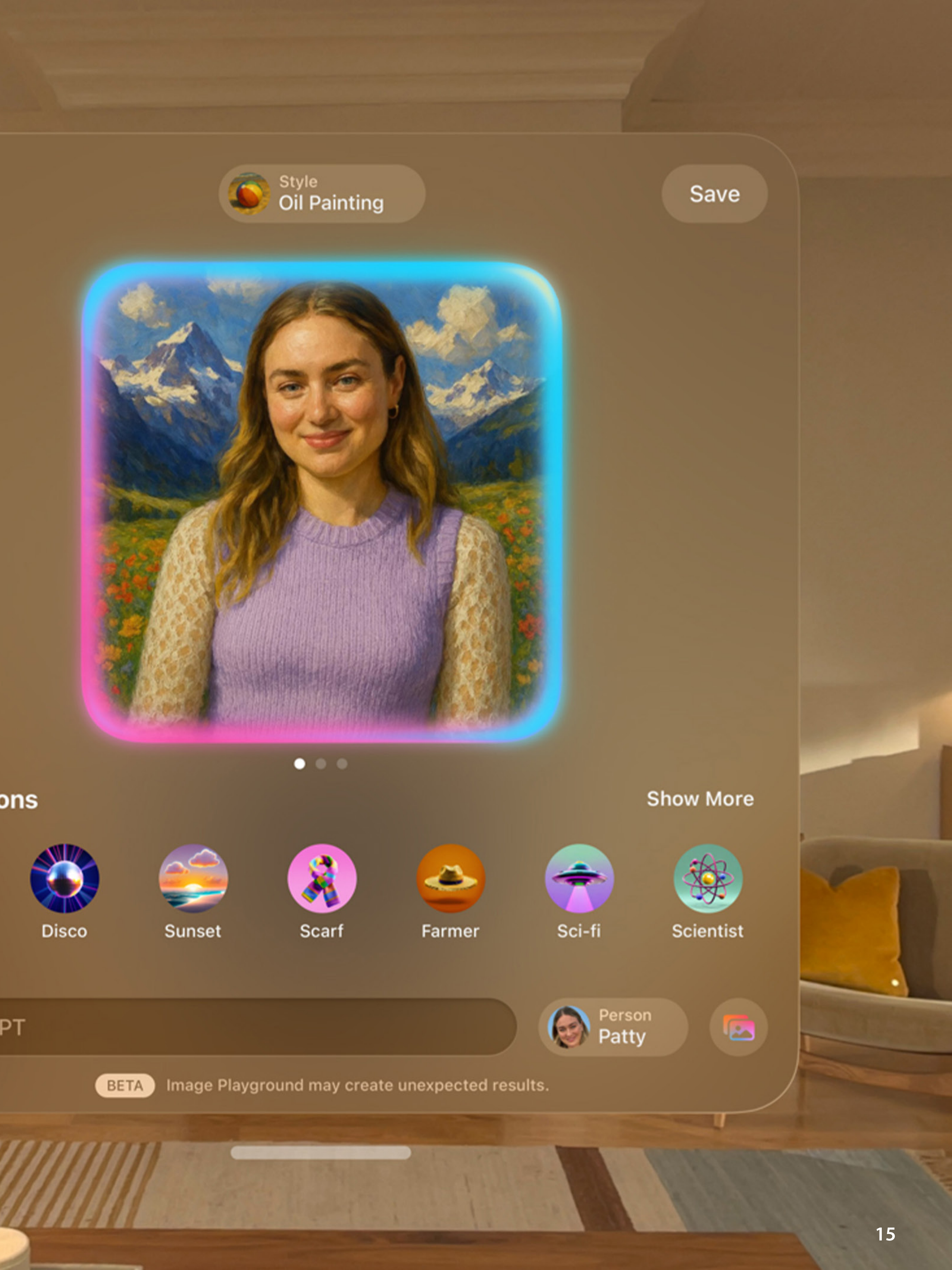
Battery management has been optimized as well, with smarter power balancing that extends use time during heavy workloads like multitasking or extended video playback.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR VISION PRO

visionOS 26 shows Apple is treating Vision Pro as a platform with rapid iteration, not a static product. While sales remain limited compared to iPhones or Macs, the company appears committed to making Vision Pro a long-term pillar of its ecosystem.

For early adopters, the update represents the most meaningful improvements yet: smoother interaction, smarter multitasking, better media experiences, and the first wave of deep AI integration. For Apple, it's a test of whether steady refinements can broaden the appeal of a device that is still finding its audience.

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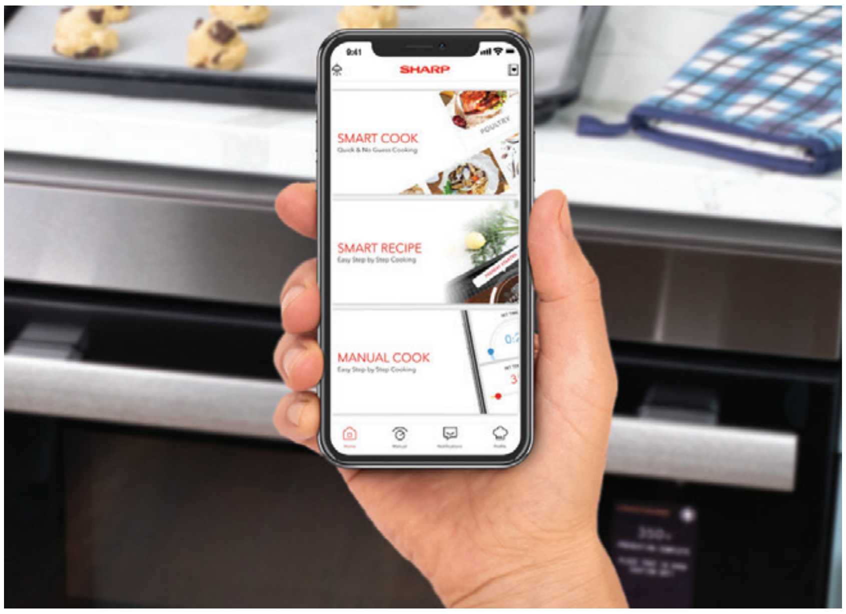

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THERMAL DRONES SPOT FOREST WILDLIFE TEN TIMES FASTER THAN HUMAN SURVEYS

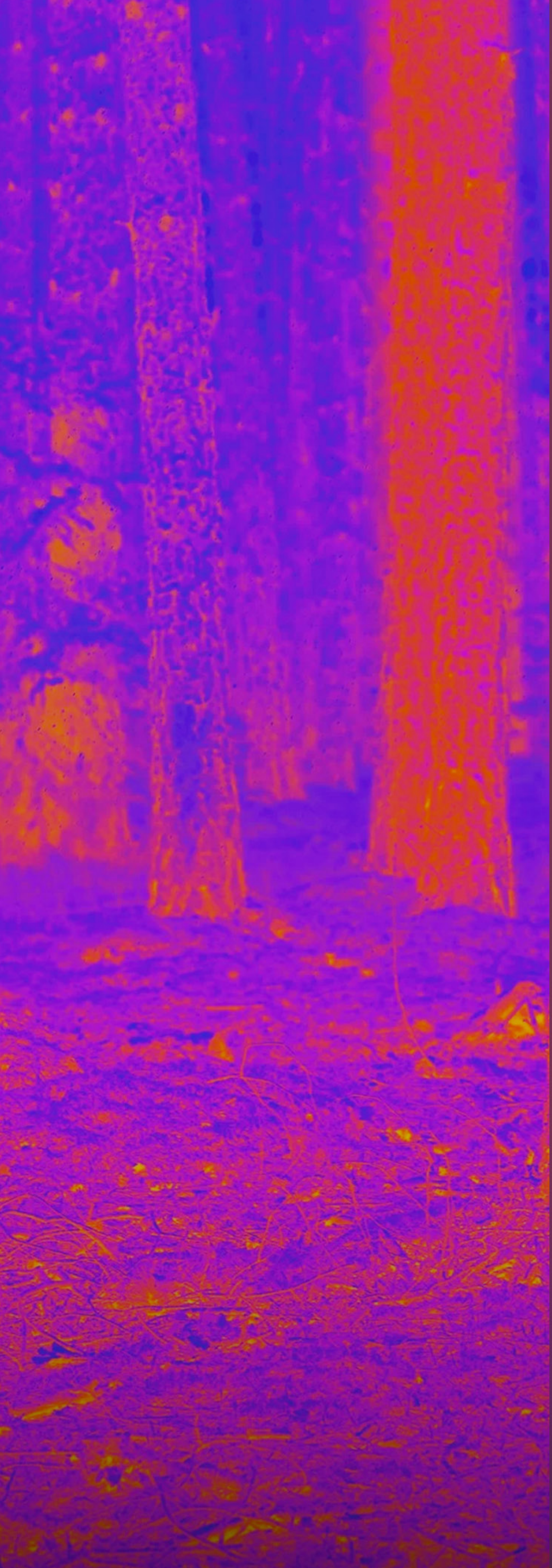
A new wave of research is showing that thermal drones can revolutionize the way scientists monitor wildlife, with recent field studies demonstrating they are ten times faster than traditional human surveys at detecting animals in dense forests. The findings highlight how aerial thermal imaging is emerging as a game-changing tool for conservation, ecology, and even climate adaptation efforts.

HOW THERMAL DRONES WORK IN THE FIELD

Thermal drones use infrared cameras to detect the body heat of animals against cooler backgrounds, allowing them to spot creatures hidden under tree canopies, dense vegetation, or at night. This overcomes one of the biggest limitations of human-led wildlife surveys, which rely on visual observation, often missing species that camouflage well or are active after dark.

In recent trials, drones equipped with thermal imaging flew over temperate and tropical forests at dawn and dusk—times when many animals are most active. The drones identified mammals and birds in minutes that might have taken teams of field biologists hours or even days to detect.

“Instead of combing through the forest on foot, drones can scan an entire area in a fraction of the time,” said one researcher involved in the study. “It doesn’t just save time—it transforms what’s possible in conservation.”



TEN TIMES FASTER, WITH BETTER ACCURACY

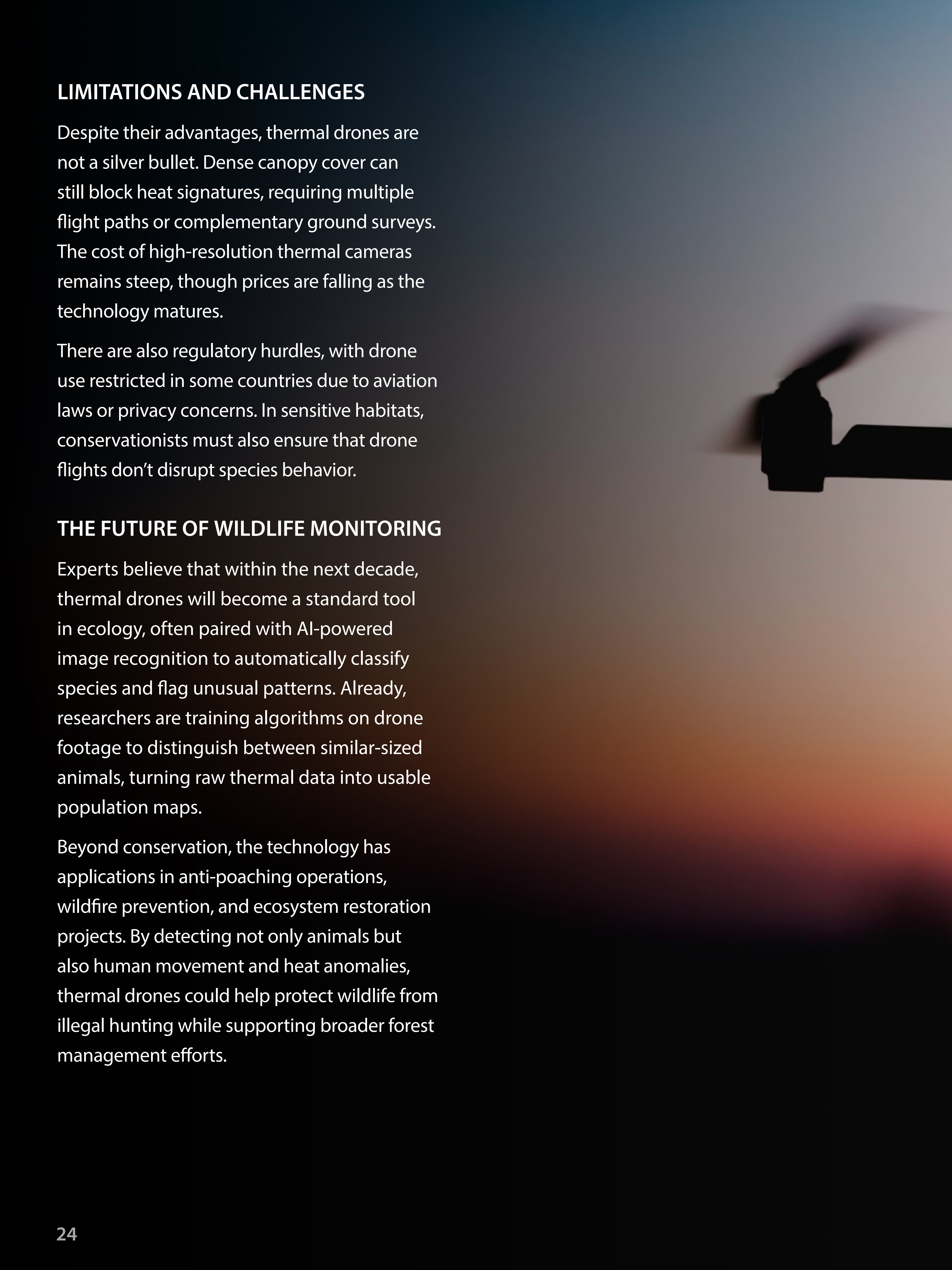
The study found that thermal drones could detect wildlife ten times faster than human observers and with significantly higher accuracy in identifying presence. For animals like deer, monkeys, or ground-nesting birds, drones were able to register their heat signatures even in environments where humans struggled to confirm sightings.

Importantly, the use of drones reduced the risk of double-counting animals—a common problem when multiple surveyors encounter the same animal separately. With thermal signatures logged and mapped from the air, researchers achieved a more reliable estimate of populations.

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR CONSERVATION

Accurate wildlife population counts are essential for tracking endangered species, managing protected areas, and assessing the impact of deforestation and climate change. Traditional surveys often require weeks of fieldwork, large teams, and significant costs. Thermal drones not only accelerate the process but also make it possible to survey remote or dangerous areas where human access is limited.

For example, conservation groups monitoring jaguars in South America or elephants in African forests often struggle with incomplete data due to the sheer scale of habitats. Thermal drones can provide faster, safer coverage while reducing stress on the animals, since aerial observation avoids direct human disturbance.



LIMITATIONS AND CHALLENGES

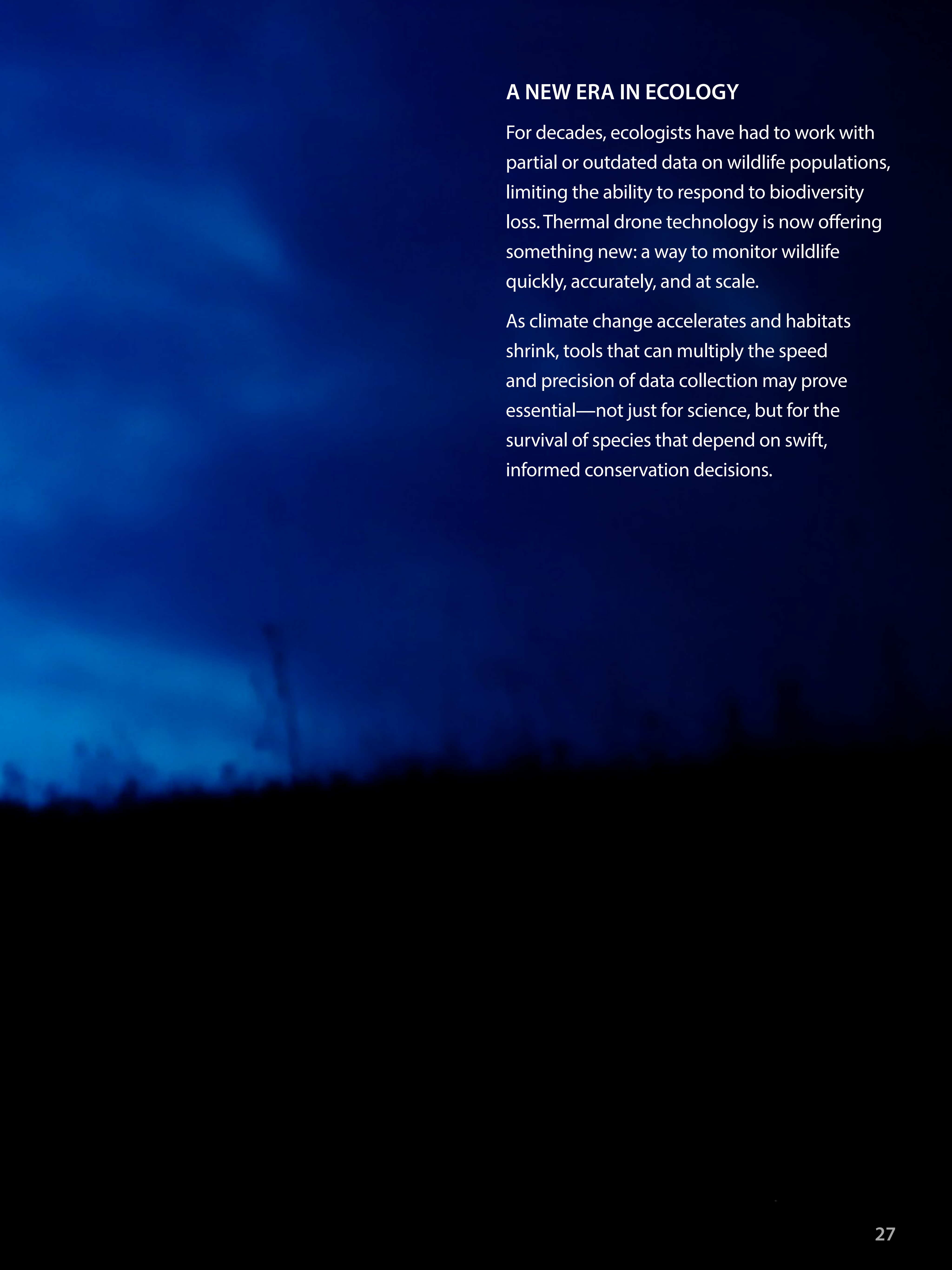
Despite their advantages, thermal drones are not a silver bullet. Dense canopy cover can still block heat signatures, requiring multiple flight paths or complementary ground surveys. The cost of high-resolution thermal cameras remains steep, though prices are falling as the technology matures.

There are also regulatory hurdles, with drone use restricted in some countries due to aviation laws or privacy concerns. In sensitive habitats, conservationists must also ensure that drone flights don’t disrupt species behavior.

THE FUTURE OF WILDLIFE MONITORING

Experts believe that within the next decade, thermal drones will become a standard tool in ecology, often paired with AI-powered image recognition to automatically classify species and flag unusual patterns. Already, researchers are training algorithms on drone footage to distinguish between similar-sized animals, turning raw thermal data into usable population maps.

Beyond conservation, the technology has applications in anti-poaching operations, wildfire prevention, and ecosystem restoration projects. By detecting not only animals but also human movement and heat anomalies, thermal drones could help protect wildlife from illegal hunting while supporting broader forest management efforts.



A NEW ERA IN ECOLOGY

For decades, ecologists have had to work with partial or outdated data on wildlife populations, limiting the ability to respond to biodiversity loss. Thermal drone technology is now offering something new: a way to monitor wildlife quickly, accurately, and at scale.

As climate change accelerates and habitats shrink, tools that can multiply the speed and precision of data collection may prove essential—not just for science, but for the survival of species that depend on swift, informed conservation decisions.

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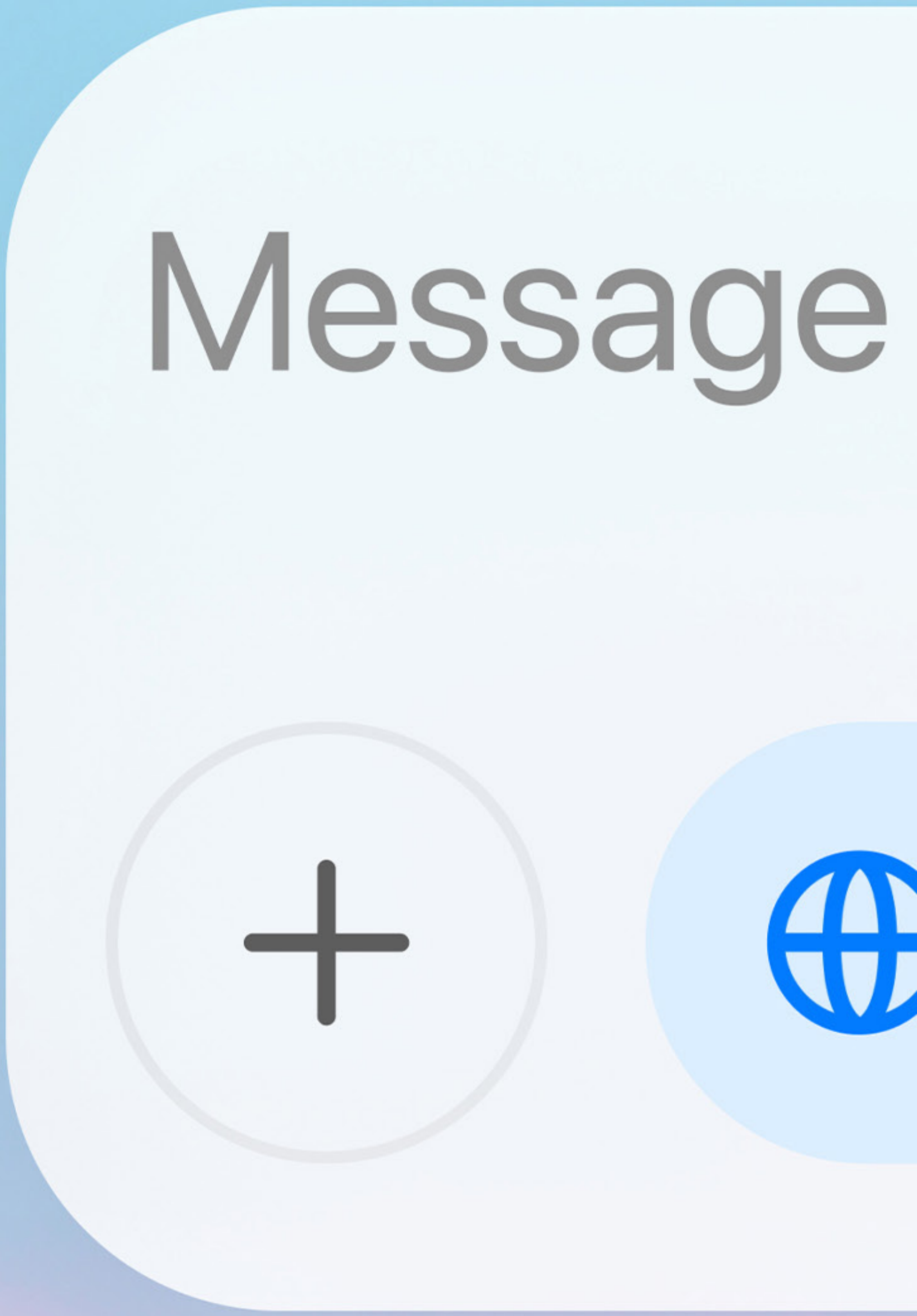
SAM ALTMAN SAYS OPENAI'S FUTURE KEEPS HIM AWAKE

Sam Altman, the CEO of OpenAI, says he has been struggling to sleep in recent months—not because of the company's meteoric rise, but because of the controversies and existential stakes surrounding its technology. In a rare, sweeping interview this week, Altman addressed criticism of OpenAI's governance, transparency, and business practices, while outlining both his hopes and fears for the future of artificial intelligence.

A LEADER UNDER SCRUTINY

Altman's comments come at a turbulent moment for OpenAI. The company behind ChatGPT and GPT-5 is both celebrated as the most influential AI firm in the world and criticized for its pace of development, secrecy, and commercialization. In the interview, Altman admitted that the responsibility of guiding AI safely has taken a personal toll.

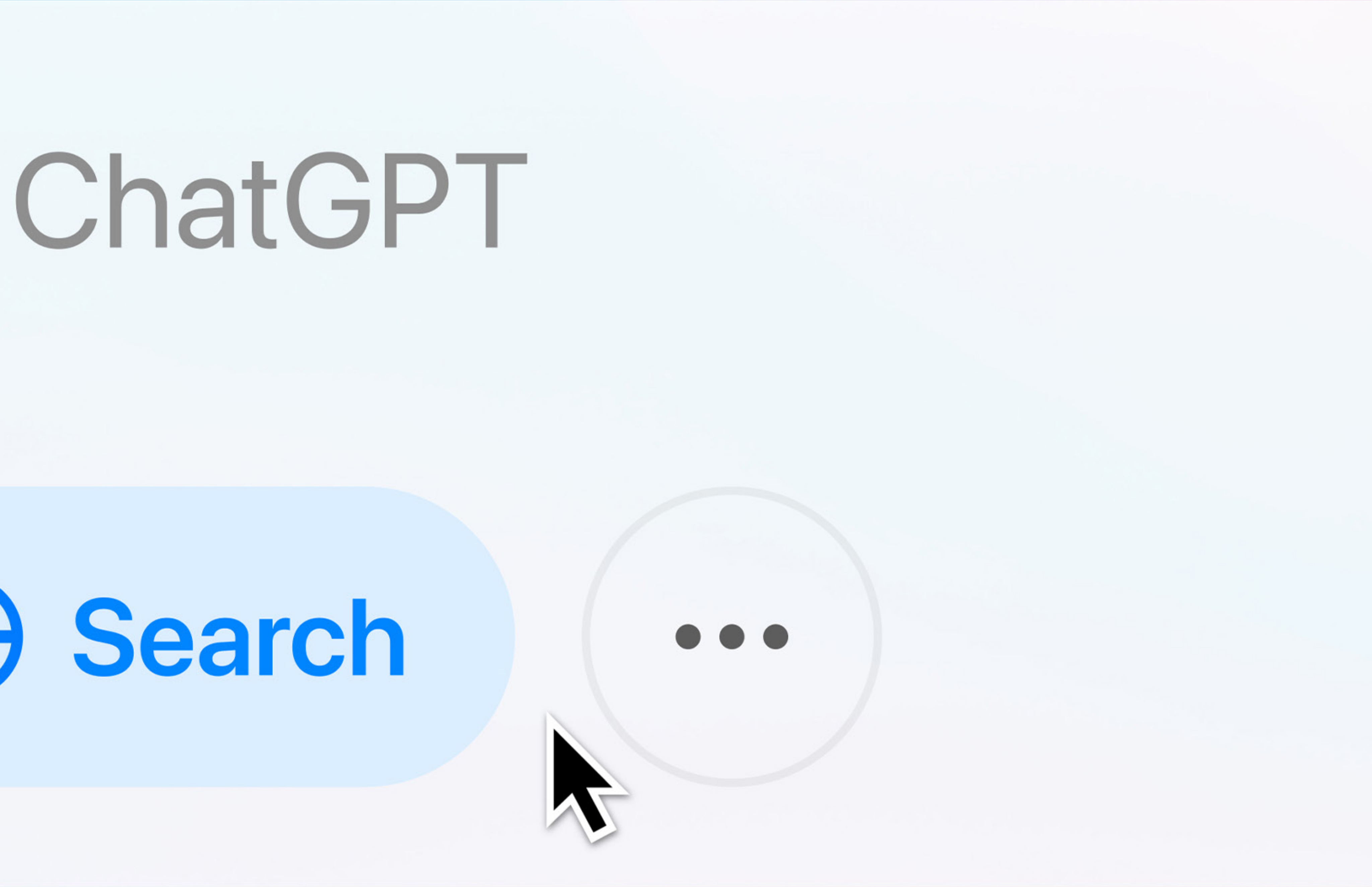
"I don't sleep very well these days," he said. "The weight of getting this right is immense. We're building tools that could change society forever, and the margin for error is thin."



THE BOARDROOM DRAMA STILL LOOMS

Much of the conversation touched on last year's boardroom crisis, when Altman was briefly ousted as CEO before being reinstated after employee and investor pressure. Critics argued the saga exposed weaknesses in OpenAI's governance structure, raising questions about whether any single company should wield so much power over AI development.

Altman acknowledged mistakes but defended OpenAI's hybrid nonprofit–for-profit model.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“We’re not perfect. But the idea was always to balance rapid innovation with the resources needed to scale safely,” he said. He added that efforts are underway to improve transparency and oversight, though some skeptics remain unconvinced.

CONTROVERSY OVER PARTNERSHIPS AND POWER

OpenAI’s close partnership with Microsoft, which has invested billions into the company, has fueled debate over whether OpenAI is becoming too commercialized. Critics argue the company’s original nonprofit mission—to ensure AI benefits all humanity—has shifted toward profit-driven incentives.

Altman pushed back, saying that commercial success and mission alignment are not mutually exclusive. “If we don’t deploy this technology broadly, responsibly, and sustainably, someone else will. We need resources, and partnerships give us the ability to scale safely.”

THE SAFETY DEBATE

Perhaps the most pressing controversy is over AI safety. Some researchers, including OpenAI’s own former employees, have accused the company of moving too quickly, prioritizing product launches over safeguards. Altman conceded that safety is “the hardest part” of AI development.

“We’re trying to do something no one has done before: align superintelligent systems with human values,” he said. “We’re building safeguards, we’re doing red-team testing, but the truth is there are unknowns. Anyone who says otherwise isn't being honest."

Altman also stressed the need for international regulation, echoing his earlier testimony before the U.S. Senate. "We don't want to be the ones deciding the rules for the world. Governments must play a role. But regulation has to be global, or it won't work."

COMPETITION AND PRESSURE

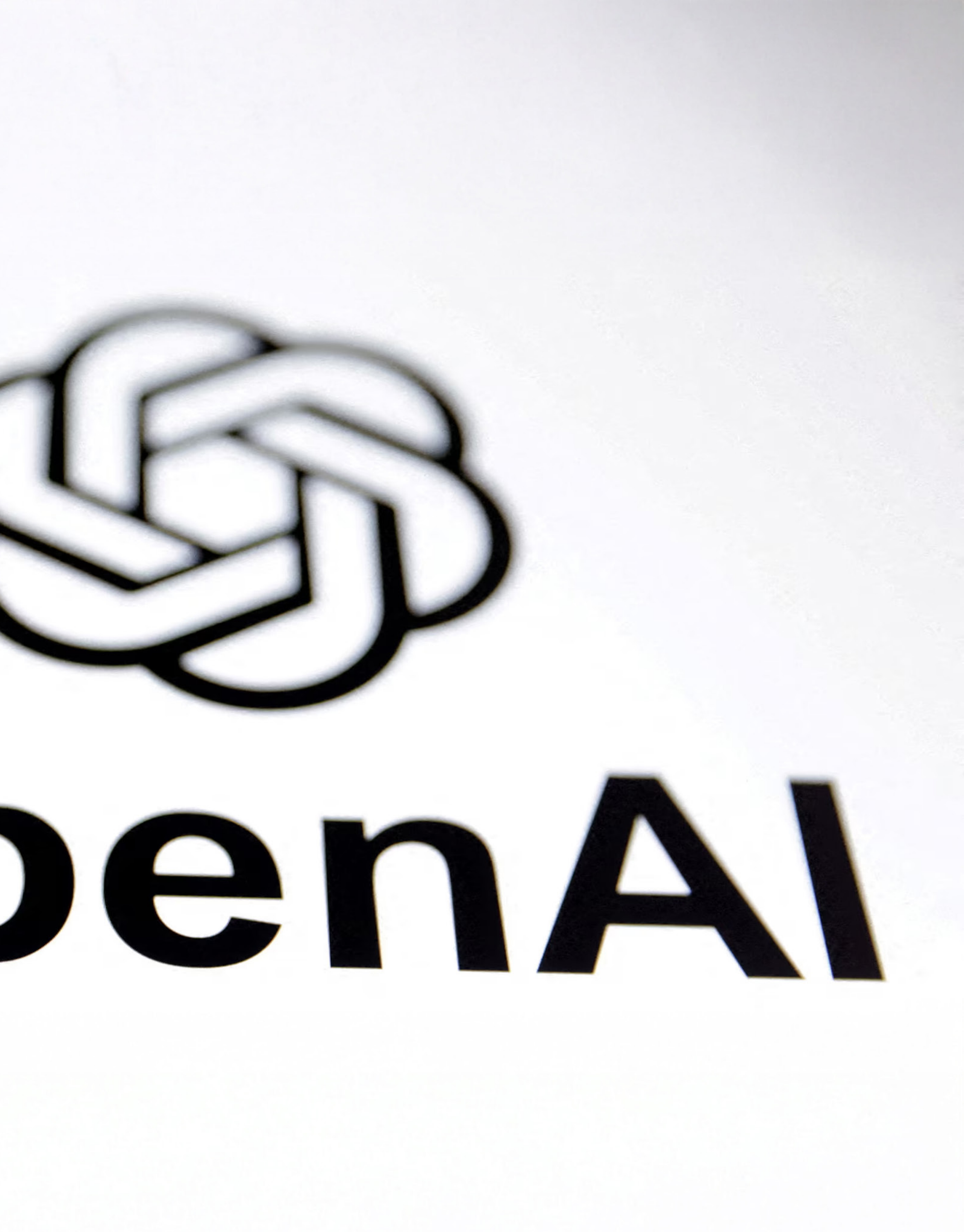
The rise of rivals like Anthropic, Google DeepMind, and Elon Musk's xAI has intensified pressure on OpenAI to keep pace. Altman acknowledged the competition but argued that the real challenge is not beating competitors but building safe, useful systems.

"There's this perception that it's a race. And yes, competition is real. But if it becomes just about speed, everyone loses. This is too important for humanity to be framed as a sprint."

WHY HE'S LOSING SLEEP

In the end, Altman returned to the human cost of leading one of the most scrutinized companies in the world. Between investor expectations, government pressure, internal dissent, and global fears about AI's trajectory, he admitted the burden can feel overwhelming.

"Sometimes I wake up at 3 a.m. and think, what if we get this wrong?" he said. "But then I think about what happens if we get it right—if AI helps cure diseases, solve climate change, expand human creativity. That's what keeps me going."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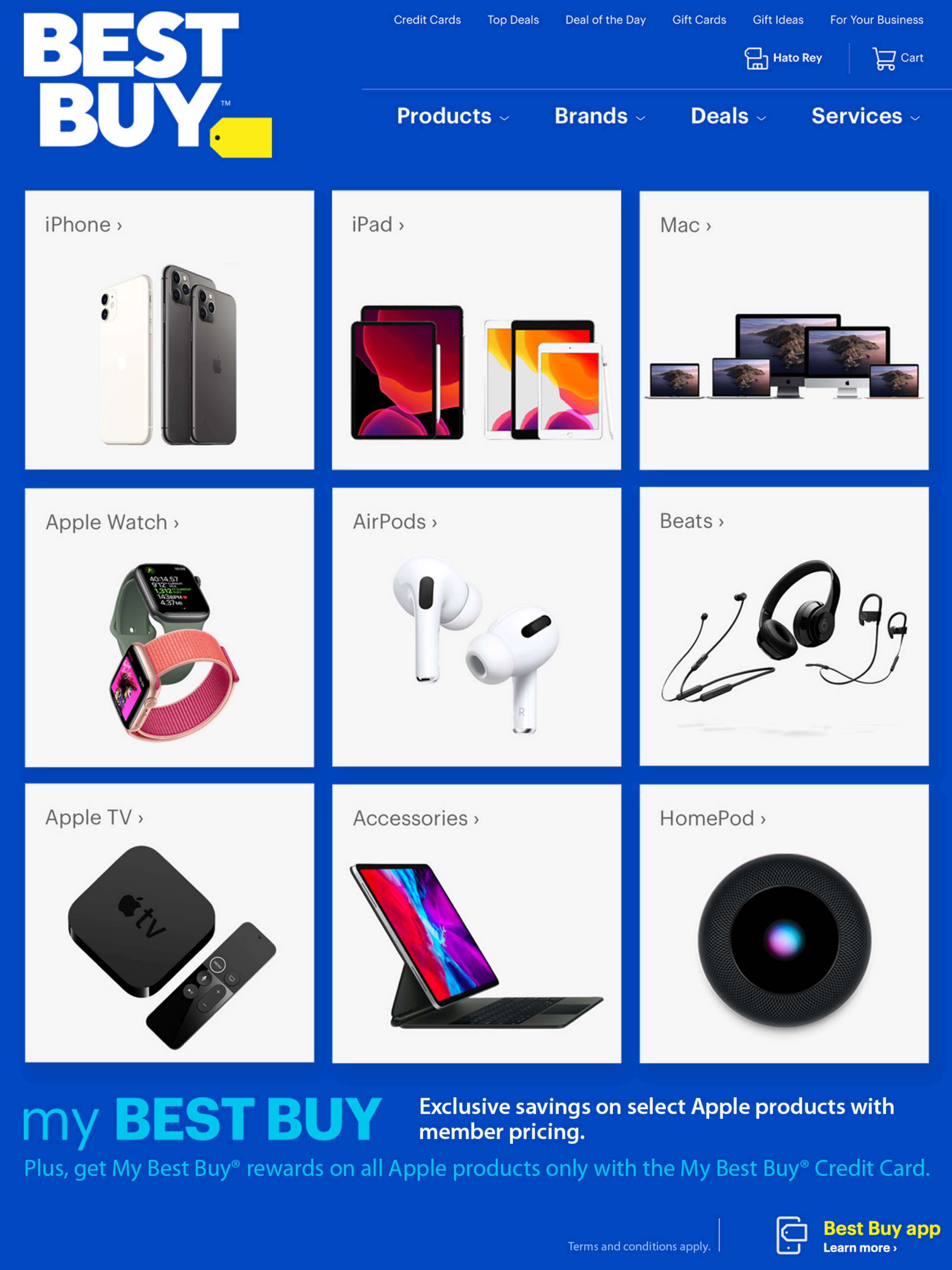

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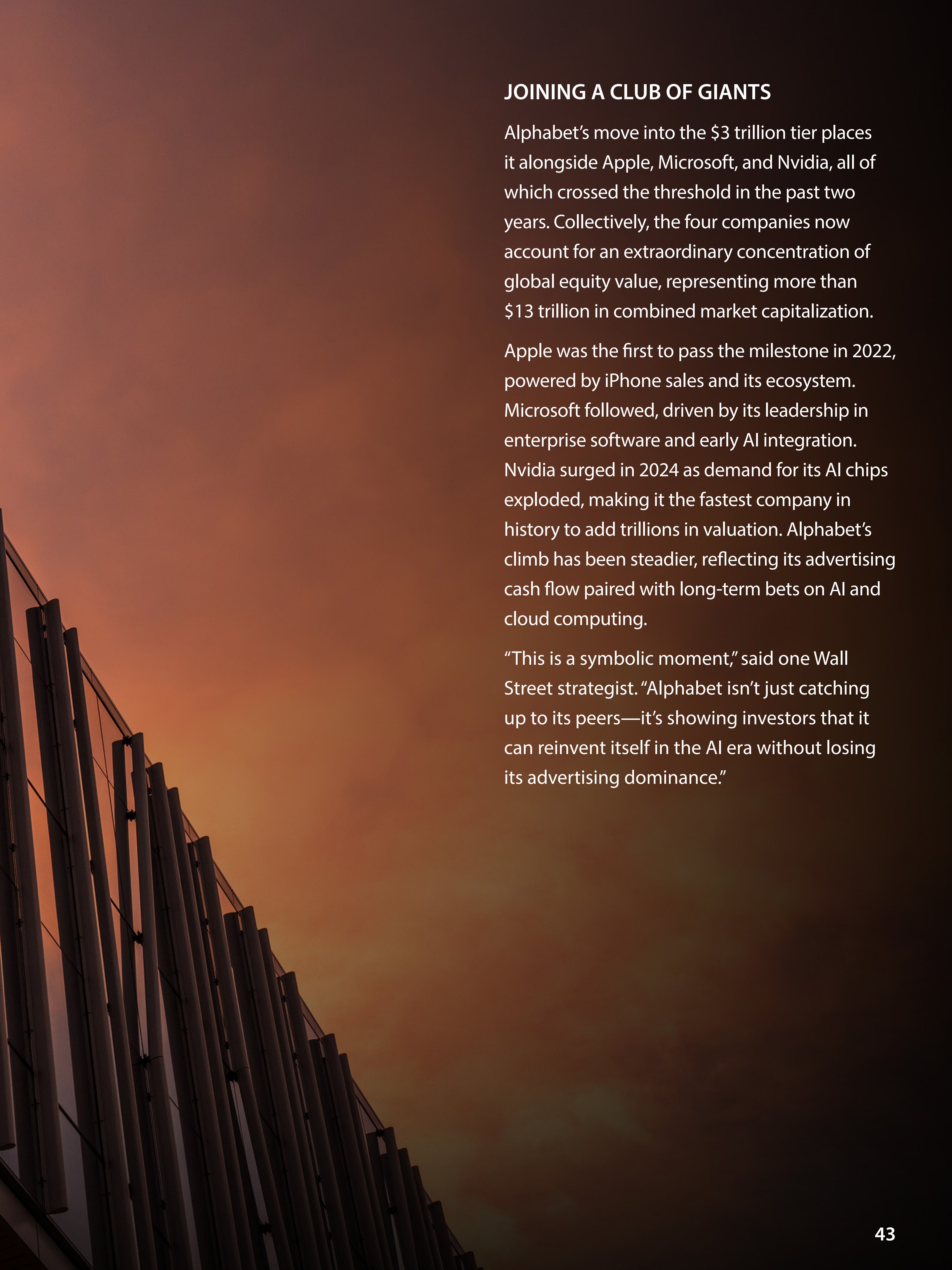
ALPHABET HITS $3 TRILLION MARKET CAP, BECOMES FOURTH COMPANY TO REACH MILESTONE

Alphabet, the parent company of Google, has reached a $3 trillion market capitalization, cementing its place among the world's most valuable corporations and becoming only the fourth company in history to pass the milestone. The achievement underscores both the enduring strength of Google's advertising empire and the accelerating influence of artificial intelligence on investor confidence in Big Tech.

Google



JOINING A CLUB OF GIANTS

Alphabet's move into the $3 trillion tier places it alongside Apple, Microsoft, and Nvidia, all of which crossed the threshold in the past two years. Collectively, the four companies now account for an extraordinary concentration of global equity value, representing more than $13 trillion in combined market capitalization.

Apple was the first to pass the milestone in 2022, powered by iPhone sales and its ecosystem. Microsoft followed, driven by its leadership in enterprise software and early AI integration. Nvidia surged in 2024 as demand for its AI chips exploded, making it the fastest company in history to add trillions in valuation. Alphabet's climb has been steadier, reflecting its advertising cash flow paired with long-term bets on AI and cloud computing.

"This is a symbolic moment," said one Wall Street strategist. "Alphabet isn't just catching up to its peers—it's showing investors that it can reinvent itself in the AI era without losing its advertising dominance."

Image: Richard Drew

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ADVERTISING STILL THE CASH ENGINE

Google's search and YouTube advertising businesses remain the foundation of Alphabet's valuation, generating hundreds of billions in annual revenue. Despite concerns about shifting ad budgets and regulatory pressures, the company has maintained strong margins, giving it the cash reserves needed to pour billions into AI research and infrastructure.

YouTube, in particular, has emerged as a critical growth driver, competing not only with Netflix but also with TikTok for younger audiences. Analysts say Alphabet's ability to monetize YouTube Shorts with ads and integrate e-commerce directly into the platform has given it new levers for expansion.

AI TAKES CENTER STAGE

The real story behind Alphabet's valuation surge, however, is AI. Its Gemini family of models, developed by Google DeepMind, now power Google Search, Workspace apps, and Android devices. By embedding generative AI directly into products billions already use, Alphabet has achieved what rivals are still striving for: scale distribution without needing to build new platforms from scratch.

Google Cloud, once a distant third behind Amazon Web Services and Microsoft Azure, has become a core growth engine as enterprises adopt Gemini-powered tools for coding, security, and data analytics. This diversification has helped Alphabet shed its reputation as "just an ad company" and positioned it as a leader in the next wave of computing.

“Google has proven it can make AI an invisible layer across everything it does,” said an analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence. “That is a powerful hedge against disruption.”

INVESTOR APPETITE AND MARKET CONTEXT

Alphabet’s climb reflects not only its corporate strategy but also broader investor sentiment. With global markets facing uncertainty, investors continue to flock to Big Tech stocks, treating them as safe havens. Their massive cash positions, global reach, and ability to monetize AI innovations make them more resilient than most sectors.

Still, the concentration is raising concerns. The combined valuations of Apple, Microsoft, Nvidia, and Alphabet are now so large that they shape entire indexes like the S&P 500 and Nasdaq, amplifying market swings when tech rallies—or stumbles.

Image: Mike Blake

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REGULATORY AND COMPETITIVE HEADWINDS

Alphabet's $3 trillion milestone comes as it faces mounting regulatory challenges. In the U.S., the Justice Department is pursuing antitrust cases over its dominance in search advertising. In Europe, regulators are investigating its AI practices and app store rules. Meanwhile, competitors like OpenAI and Anthropic, backed by Microsoft and Amazon respectively, are chipping away at Google's lead in AI research and deployment.

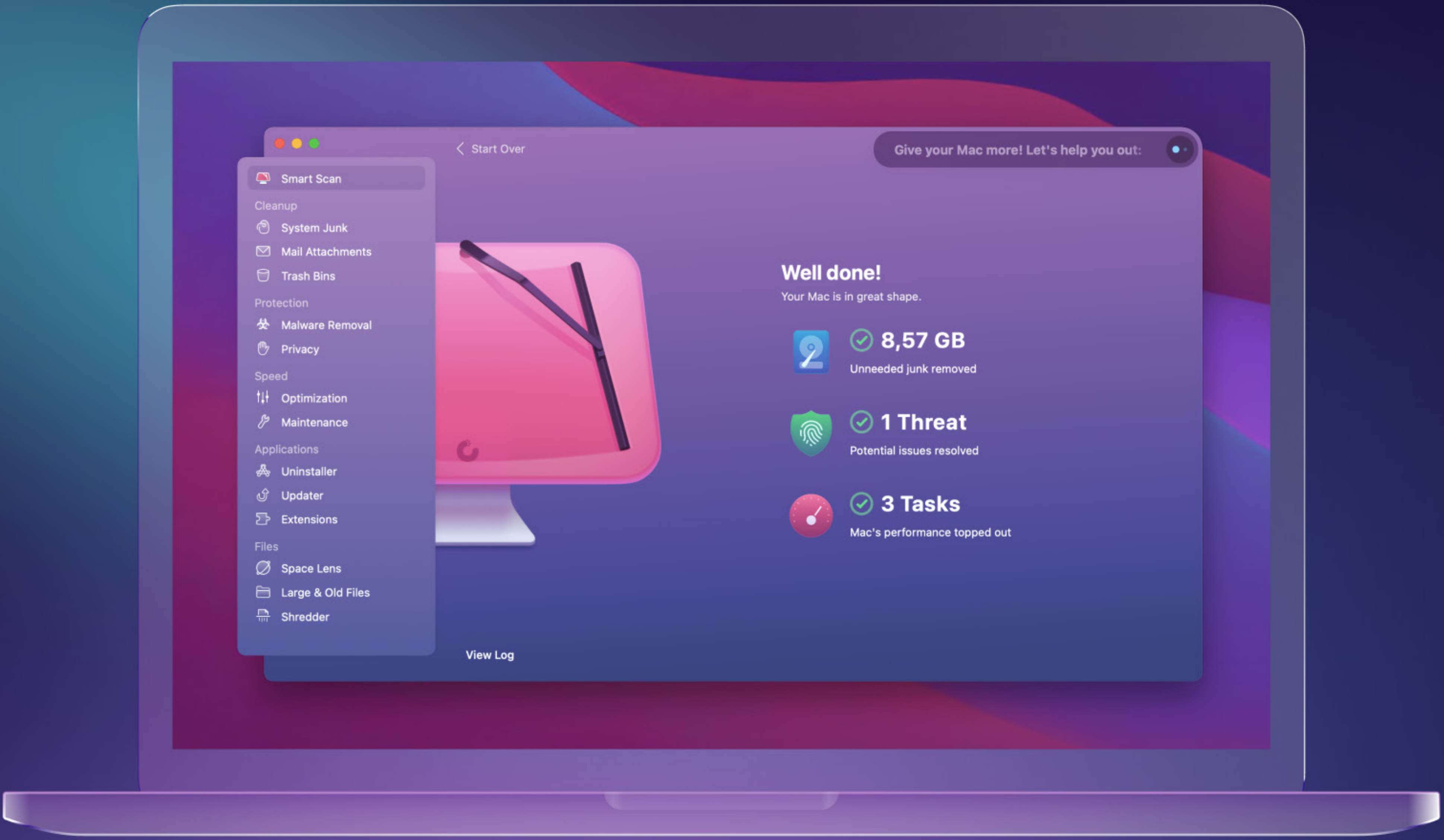
Yet Alphabet's diversified business model and global footprint give it resilience. While lawsuits could reshape how Google operates, few analysts expect them to significantly dent its financial strength in the near term.

WHO'S NEXT TO $3 TRILLION?

Alphabet's move raises the question of which company could be next to join the $3 trillion club. Amazon, valued at just over $2 trillion, is seen as the strongest contender thanks to AWS and its own AI investments. Meta trails further behind, though its pivot to AI-powered recommendation engines has reignited growth.

For now, Alphabet's achievement cements the dominance of a handful of firms shaping both technology and finance. It also signals the dawn of an era where valuations at this scale may become less exceptional and more of a baseline for the few companies with the data, infrastructure, and reach to define the AI economy.

phabet
Google



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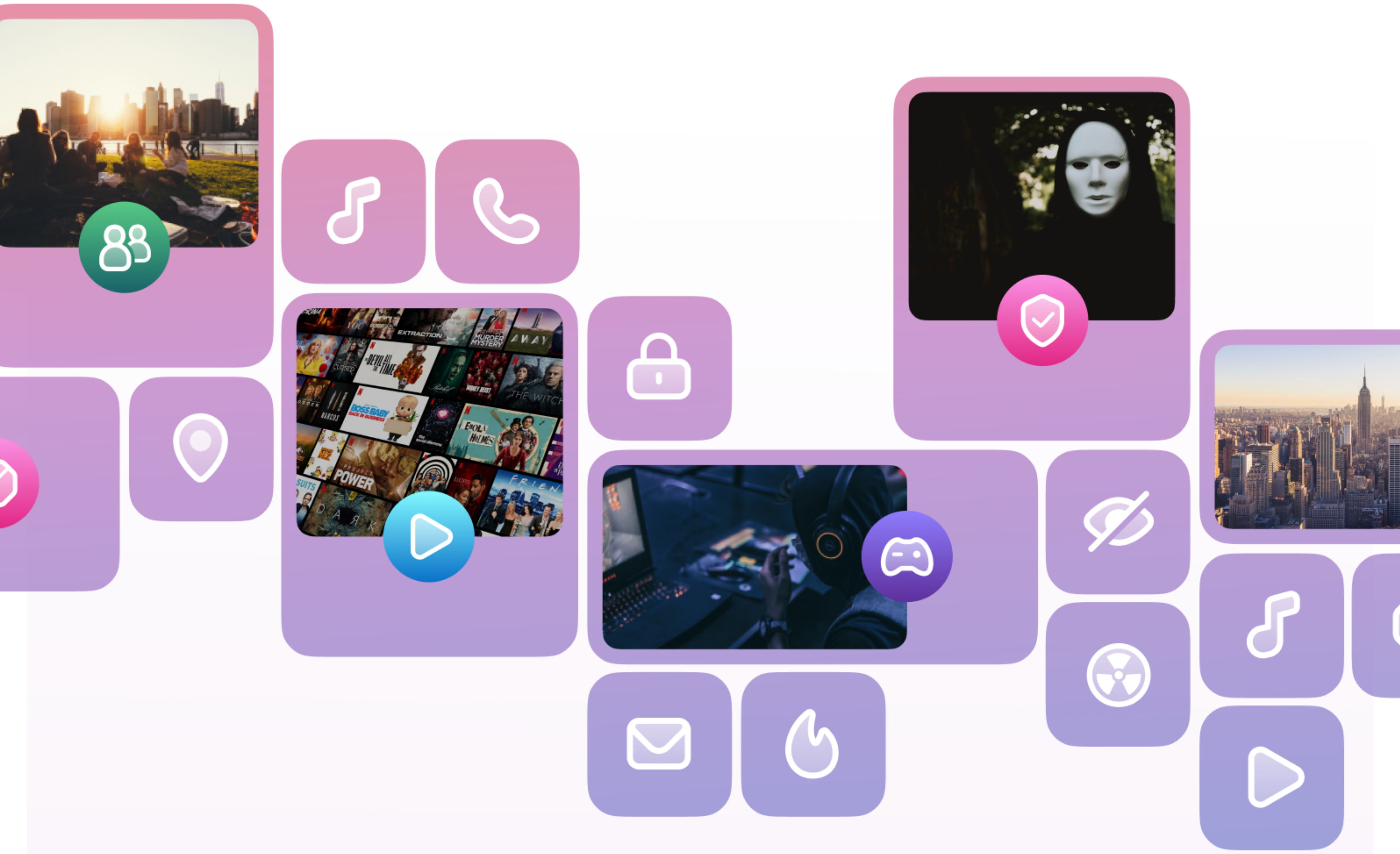

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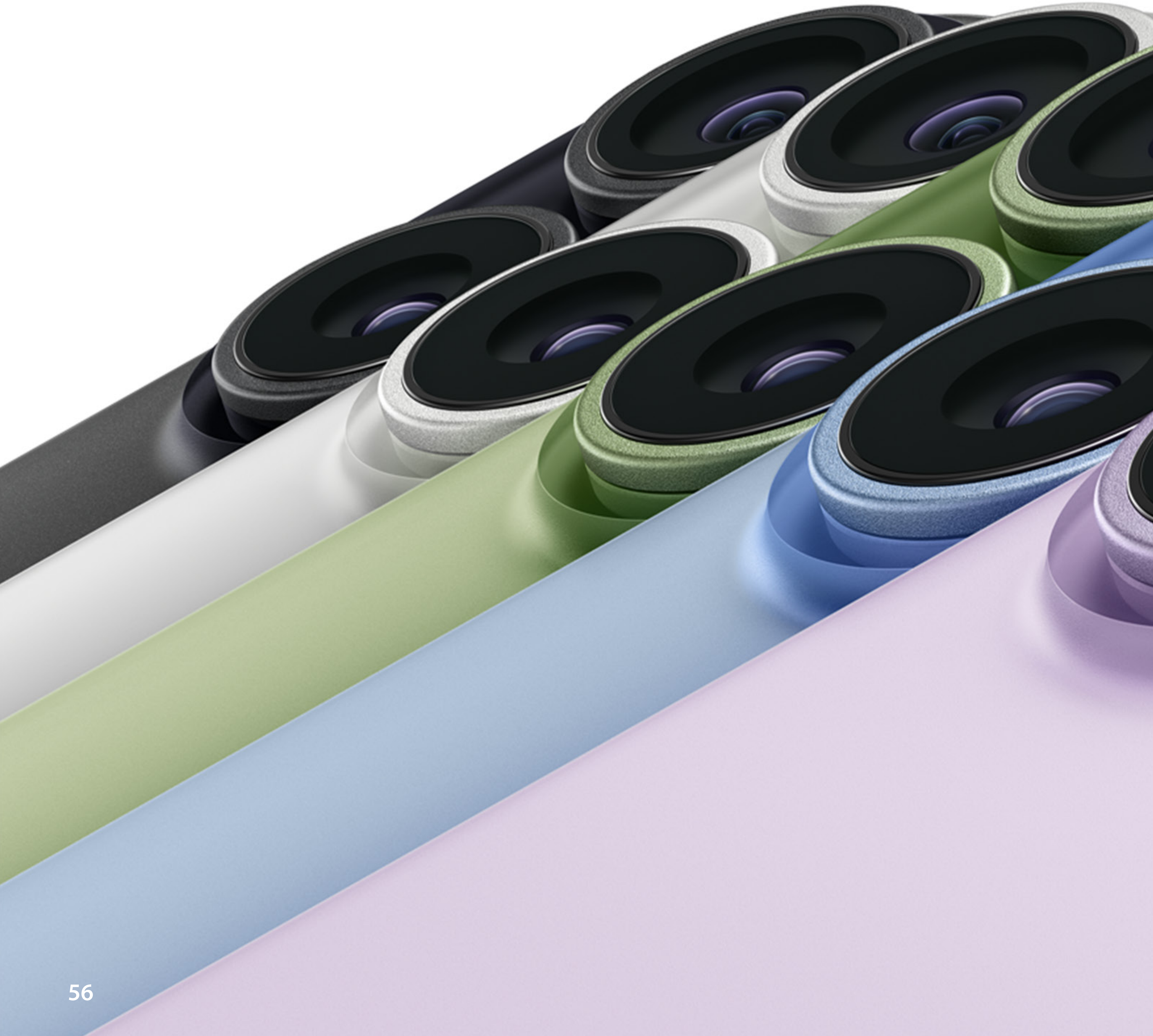
iPhone 17

A19 PERFORMANCE, FLUID XDR DISPLAY, AND INTELLIGENT CAMERA FEATURES

Whilst the iPhone Air and iPhone 17 Pro range garnered the most headlines at this year's September Event, the standard iPhone 17 for many will be the ultimate smartphone. Packed with groundbreaking features like the Center Stage front camera, Super Retina XDR display with ProMotion, and the A19 chip, iPhone 17 redefines what users expect from their devices.



NEXT-LEVEL ENTRY-LEVEL

With a sleek design, enhanced durability, and a suite of advanced technologies, this latest iteration promises to be a game-changer. Perhaps the most exciting thing about this year's release is that the iPhone 17 introduces a camera system that takes mobile photography and videography to new heights. At the forefront is the innovative **Center Stage front camera,** a first for iPhone with its square sensor design. This camera offers a wider field of view and an impressive 18MP resolution, capturing intricate details with stunning clarity for selfies. One of its most user-friendly features is the ability to take landscape selfies without rotating the phone, allowing for a more comfortable grip and a centered gaze. For group shots, **Center Stage uses AI to expand the field of view dynamically** and even rotate

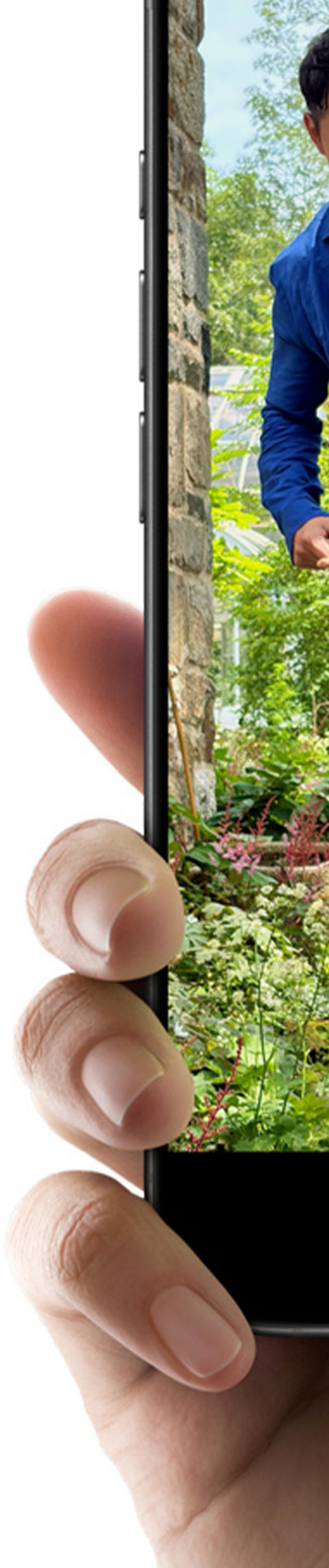
from portrait to landscape to ensure everyone fits in the frame.

The rear camera system is equally impressive, featuring all 48MP sensors for the first time. The **48MP Fusion Main camera** delivers razor-sharp detail and includes an optical-quality 2x Telephoto, effectively giving users two cameras in one. The new 48MP Fusion Ultra Wide camera captures up to four times the resolution of its predecessor, excelling in wide-angle shots and macro photography. Apple's next-generation Photographic Styles allow real-time customization of color, highlights, and shadows, with a new Bright style in iOS 26 that enhances skin tones and adds vibrance to images. Video capabilities are equally robust, with the iPhone 17 supporting 4K60 fps Dolby Vision recording. Features like Cinematic mode, Action mode, and Spatial Audio create immersive videos, while

Audio Mix and wind noise reduction ensure crystal-clear sound. The ability to capture spatial photos and videos also makes the iPhone 17 a perfect companion for Apple Vision Pro, allowing users to relive memories in remarkable depth. Additionally, the Dual Capture feature enables users to record simultaneously with both the front and rear cameras, making it ideal for vloggers or anyone capturing both themselves and their surroundings.

A STUNNING DISPLAY

The iPhone 17's design is both elegant and robust, featuring a **6.3-inch Super Retina XDR display with ProMotion technology.** This display offers an adaptive refresh rate of up to 120Hz for supersmooth scrolling, immersive gaming, and improved power efficiency. The Always-On display provides at-a-glance access to the time, widgets, and Live Activities, dropping to a 1Hz refresh rate when idle to conserve battery life. With a peak outdoor brightness of 3000 nits (the highest ever on an iPhone) and twice the outdoor contrast of its predecessor, the iPhone 17 ensures exceptional visibility even in bright sunlight. Durability is a key focus, with the introduction of **Ceramic Shield 2,** a new Apple-designed coating that offers three times better scratch resistance than the previous generation and reduces glare for better readability. The contoured edge design and thinner borders enhance the phone's sleek aesthetic, making it as beautiful as it is functional. Available in five stunning colors, black, lavender, mist blue, sage, and white, the iPhone 17 combines style with resilience.



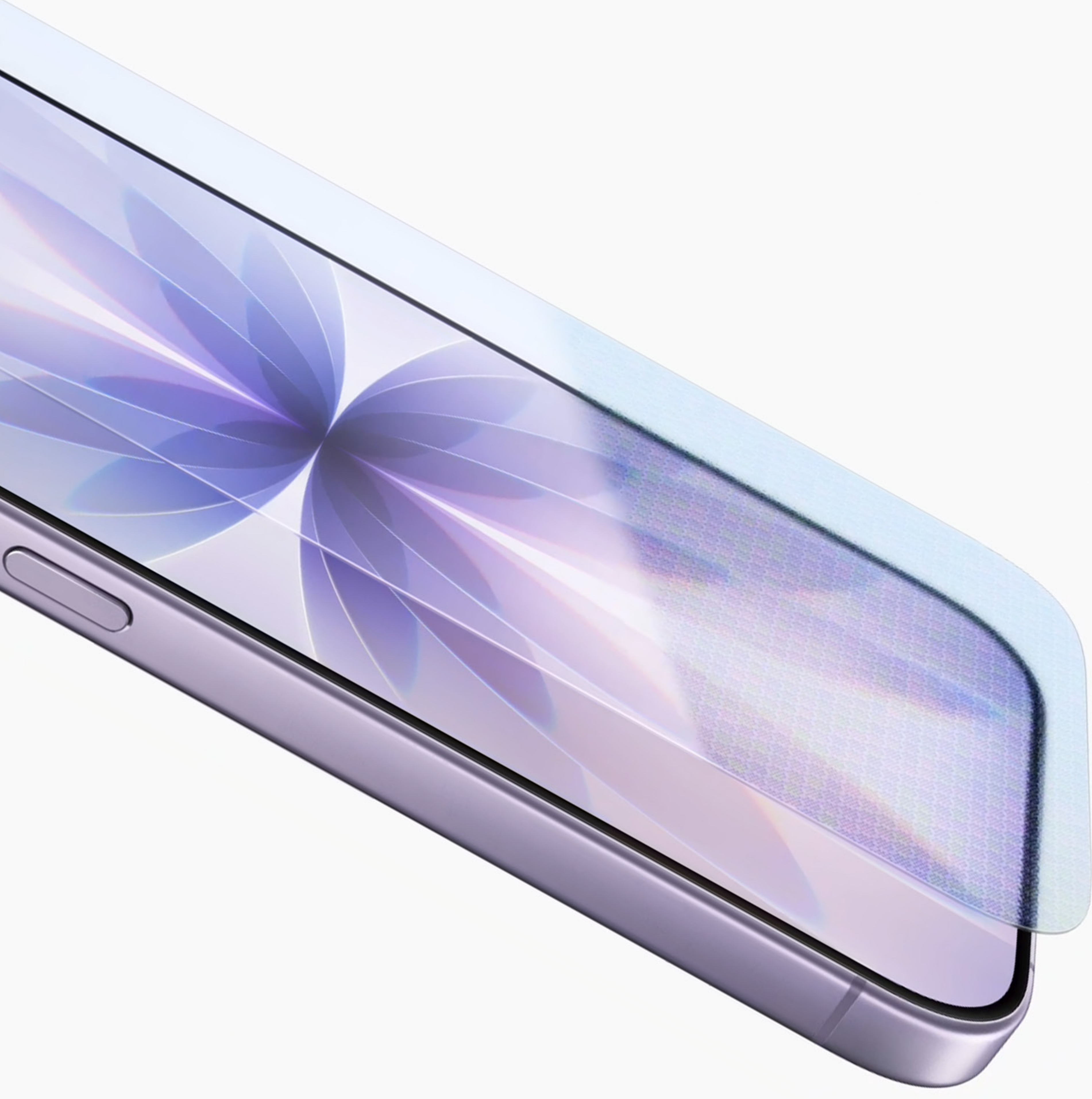
2×

THE A19 CHIPZ

At the heart of the iPhone 17 is the **A19 chip,** built on third-generation 3-nanometer technology. This chip delivers a significant performance boost, with a 6-core CPU that's 1.5 times faster than the A15 Bionic in the iPhone 13 and a 5-core GPU that's more than twice as fast. The A19's updated display engine, image signal processor (ISP), and Apple Neural Engine power advanced features like Apple Intelligence and next-generation Photographic Styles. Neural Accelerators integrated into each GPU core enable on-device generative AI models, ensuring fast and privacy-focused performance.

The A19's efficiency, combined with iOS 26's advanced power management, delivers all-day battery life, with up to 30 hours of video playback, an eight-hour improvement over the previous generation. The **new Adaptive Power Mode in iOS 26** learns users' battery consumption patterns and optimizes power usage to prevent unexpected shutdowns. For faster charging, the iPhone 17 can reach 50 percent capacity in just 20 minutes with **Apple's new 40W Dynamic Power Adapter** with 60W Max. The iPhone 17 also introduces the N1 wireless networking chip, supporting Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth 6, and Thread. This chip enhances the performance and reliability of features such as Personal Hotspot and AirDrop, ensuring seamless connectivity across various scenarios.

The iPhone 17 runs on iOS 26, which **introduces a refreshed design with Liquid Glass,** making apps and system experiences more expressive while maintaining the



Center Stage front camera

ProMotion

Up to 120Hz

3000 nits

Peak brightness

Faster wired charging

All-day battery life

A19

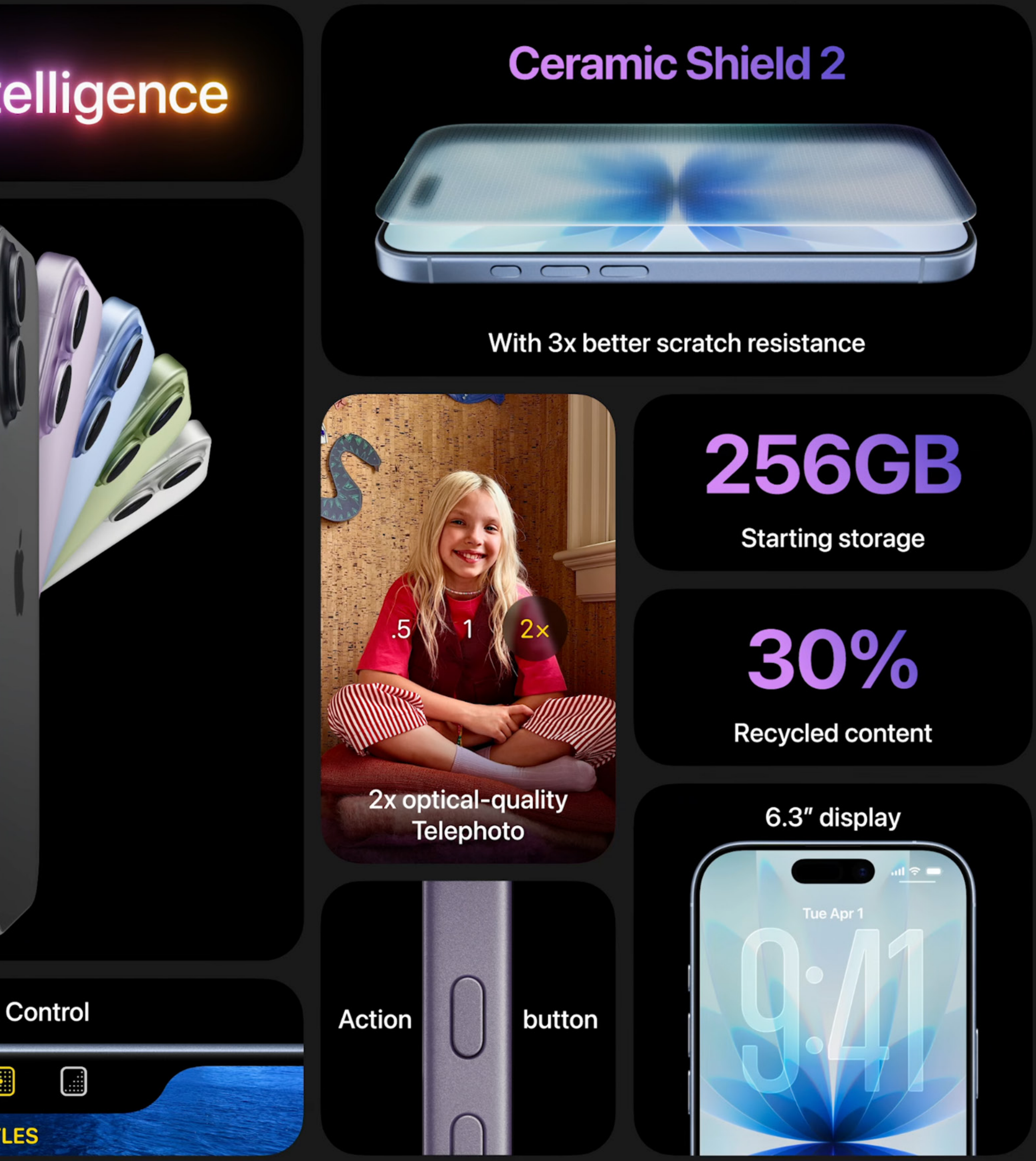
48MP

Dual Fusion camera system

Apple Int

Camera

STY



.5
1
2×
Tue Apr 1
9:41
LES

elligence

Control

Ceramic Shield 2

With 3x better scratch resistance

2x optical-quality Telephoto

256GB

Starting storage

30%

Recycled content

6.3″ display

Action button

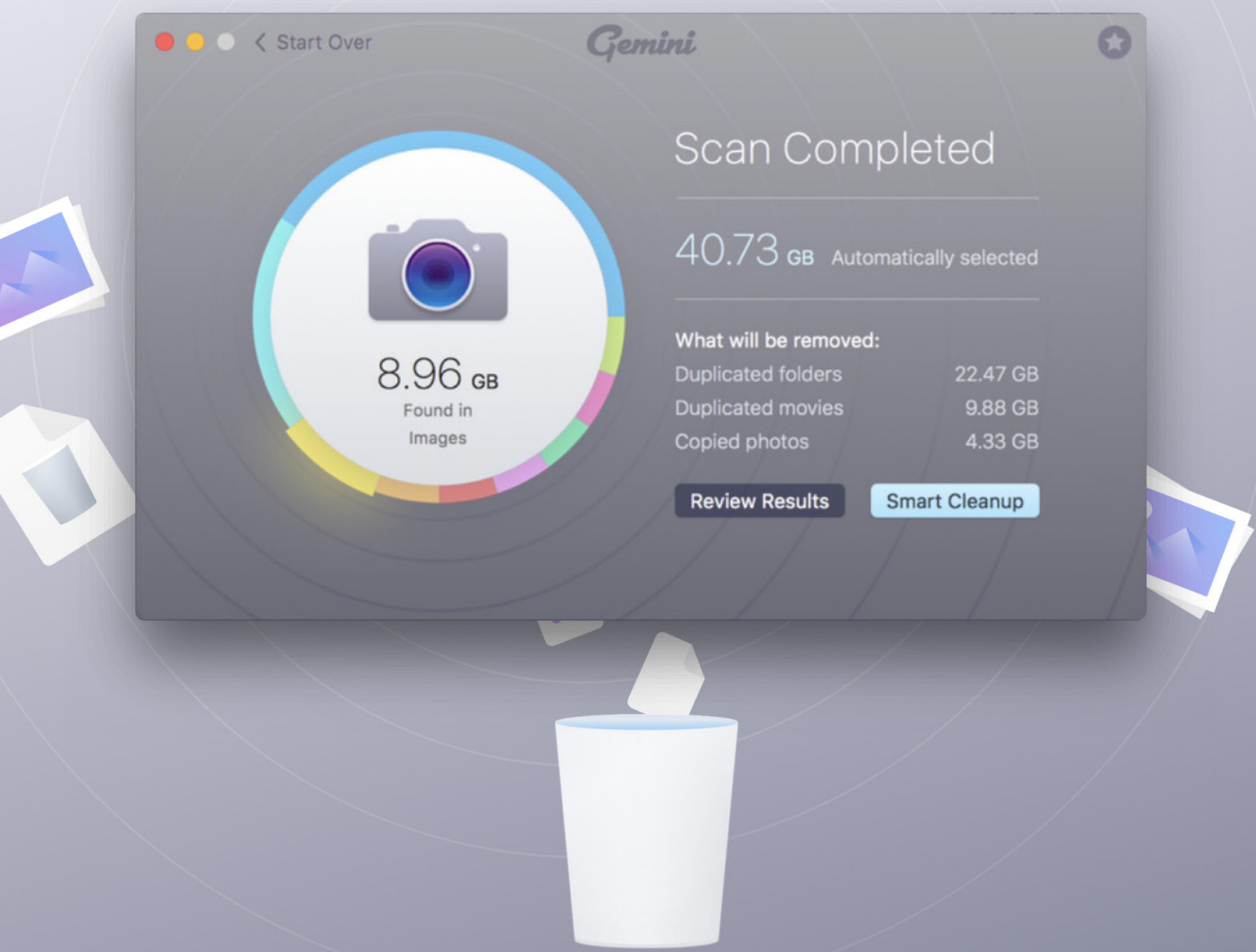
Information Transmission
☐ Pilot your Sparrow forward and follow the data stream.
926
1474

familiar iOS feel. Apple Intelligence, a cornerstone of iOS 26, brings powerful AI-driven features to the iPhone. **Live Translation enables real-time text and audio translation in Messages,** FaceTime, and Phone, supporting languages like English, French, German, Japanese, and more. Visual intelligence allows users to capture screenshots and search or act on content directly from their screen, streamlining tasks like finding information or making purchases.

iOS 26 also includes new screening tools for calls and messages to reduce distractions, as well as updates to CarPlay, Apple Music, Maps, and Wallet. The introduction of Apple Games, a dedicated app for gamers, provides a single destination for all gaming content, enhancing the iPhone's appeal to mobile gamers. Apple Intelligence's on-device foundation model ensures privacy and supports developers in creating intelligent, offline-capable apps.

From its cutting-edge camera system and powerful A19 chip to its stunning display and eco-conscious design, the iPhone 17 sets a new standard for what a smartphone can achieve.

As Apple continues to push the boundaries of technology, the iPhone 17 stands as a bold step toward a future where performance, creativity, and responsibility are intertwined.


Start Over
Gemini
Review Results
Smart Cleanup

Scan Completed

40.73 GB Automatically selected

8.96 GB Found in Images

What will be removed:

Duplicated folders	22.47 GB
Duplicated movies	9.88 GB
Copied photos	4.33 GB

Gemini 2

The intelligent duplicate file finder

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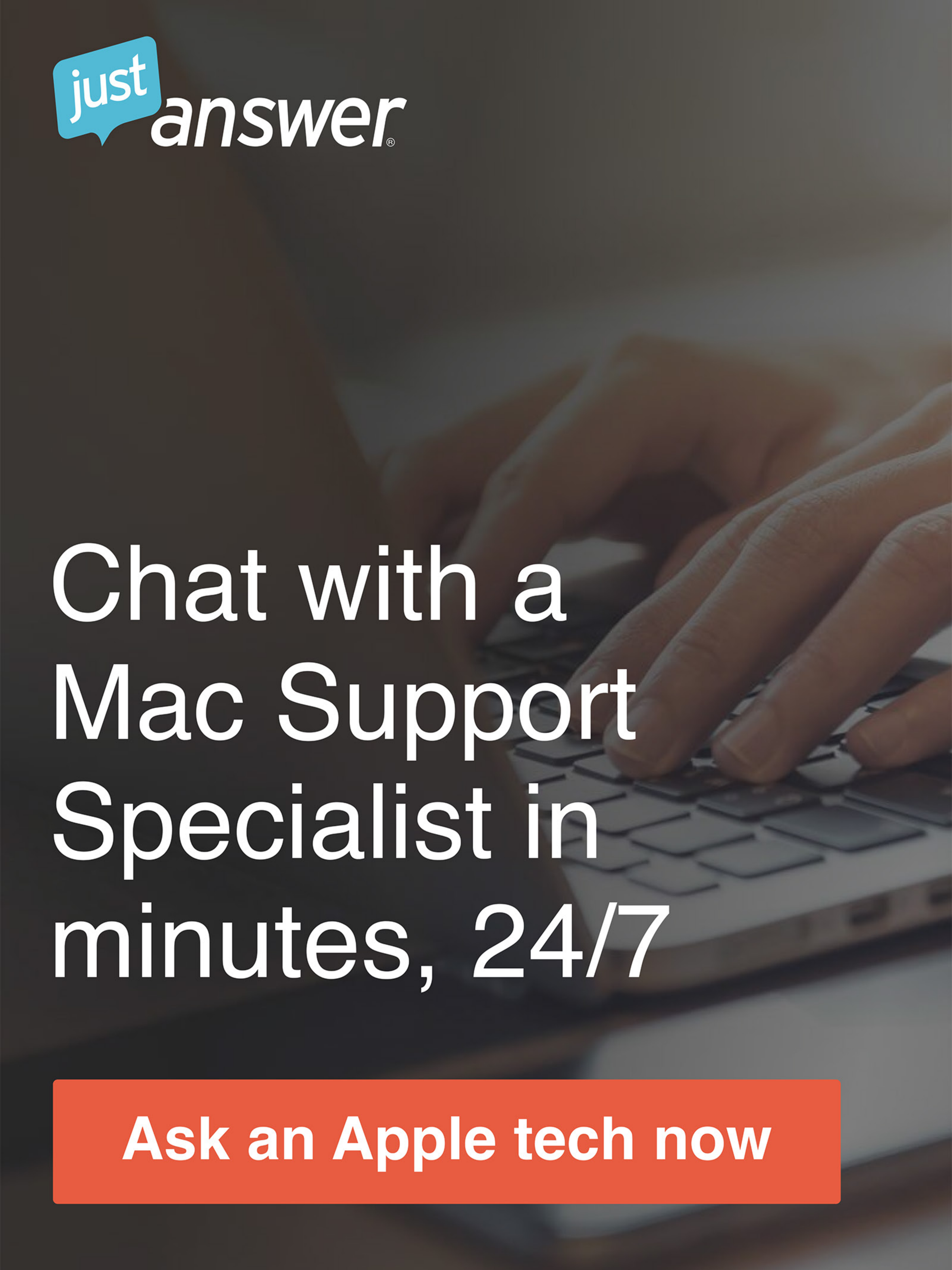

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Finder
File
Edit
View
Go
Window
Help
My Teams
NFL
NE 3
2nd 3:56
14 NYJ
Champions League
ATM 1
87:03
1 RBL
MLB
LAD 7
▲ 6th
3 MIA
MLB
SF 0
▼ 1st
0 BAL
9:41 AM
My Teams
NE 3
ATM 1
LAD 7
SF 0
FaceTime
App Store

Apple is giving sports fans one of their most requested features: widgets for the Apple Sports app. With the latest update, users can now pin live scores, upcoming games, and personalized team updates directly to their iPhone, iPad, or Mac home screens. The change marks the app's biggest step forward since its launch and signals Apple's ambition to make Apple Sports a core part of its growing sports media strategy.

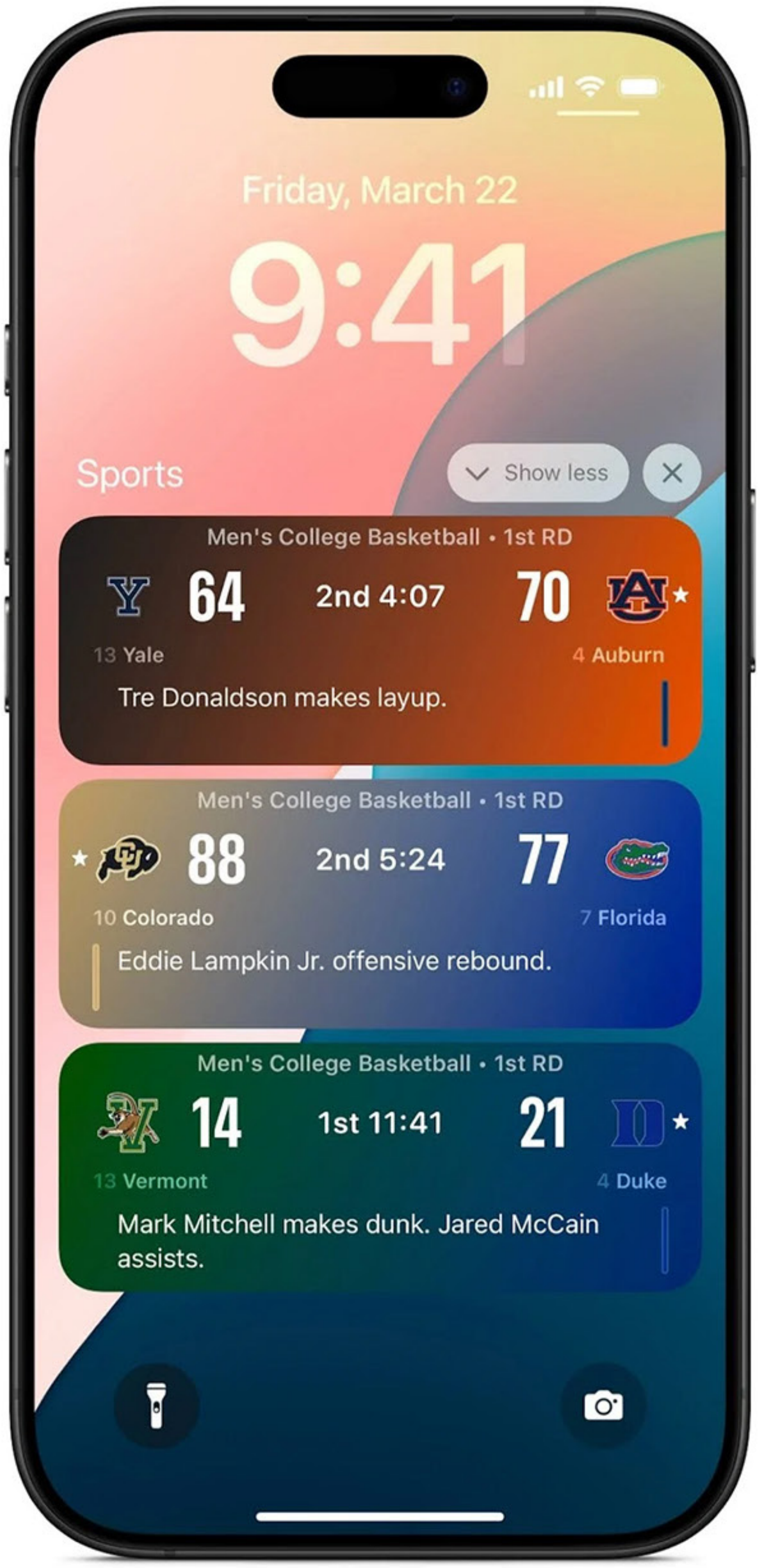
HOW THE WIDGETS WORK

The new widgets provide real-time data for major leagues, including the NFL, NBA, MLB, NHL, MLS, and leading international soccer competitions such as the Premier League, La Liga, Serie A, and Bundesliga. Fans can configure widgets to follow a favorite team, highlight a marquee matchup, or display an entire week of scheduled games.

On the iPhone and iPad, widgets can be placed on both the home screen and lock screen, with Live Activities expanding in real time during games. On the Mac, widgets appear in the Notification Center, giving desktop users access to the same up-to-date stats without switching away from work. Apple says the design prioritizes "glanceability", meaning the most important information is always visible in the simplest format.

WHY APPLE SPORTS MATTERS

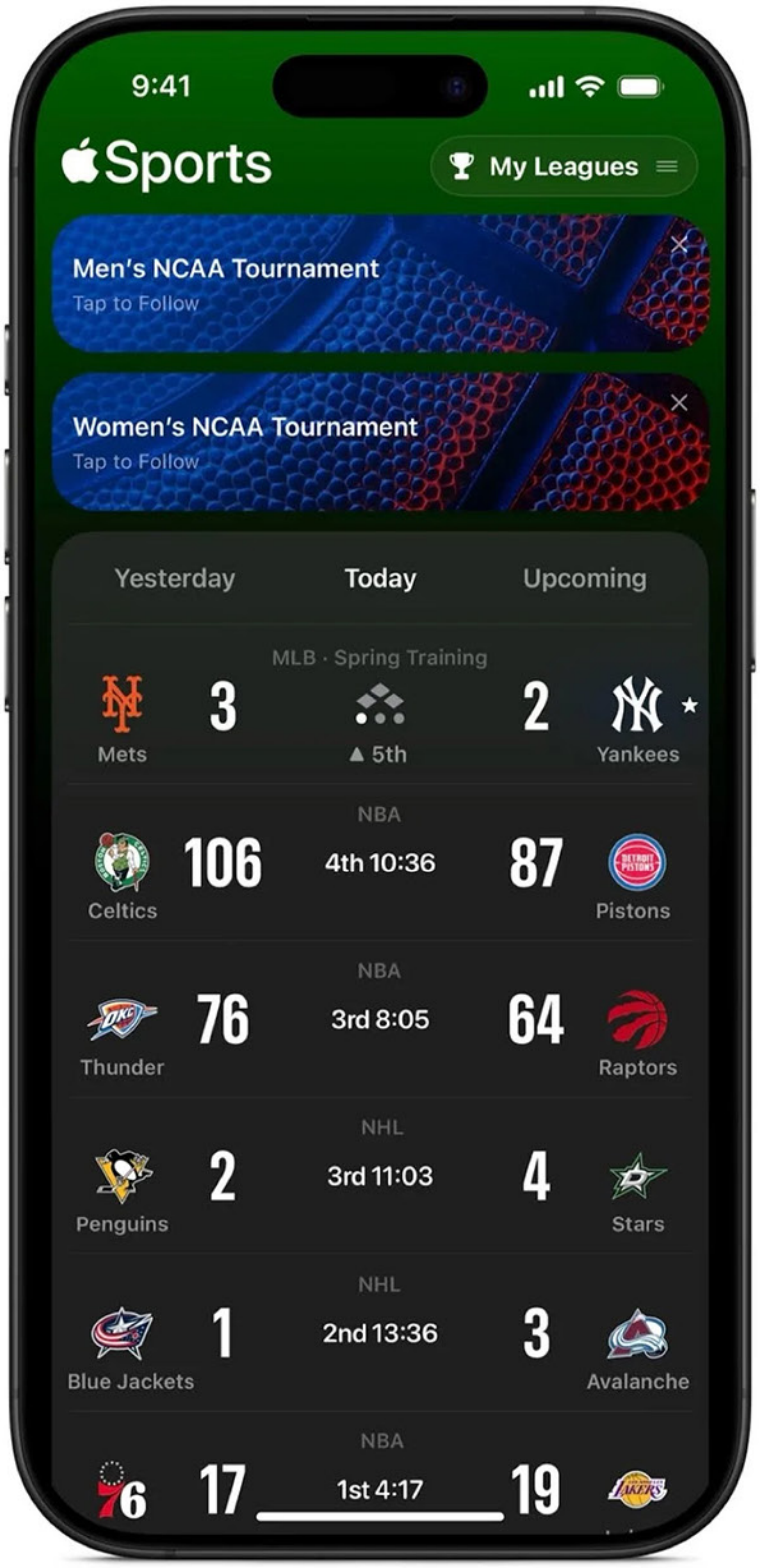
Apple launched the Sports app earlier this year as a free companion to its ecosystem, aiming to give fans a fast, centralized source of scores, standings, and stats. The app is lightweight compared to ESPN or Bleacher Report, but Apple has leveraged its system-level



Men's College Basketball • 1st RD
64 2nd 4:07 70
13 Yale 4 Auburn
Tre Donaldson makes layup.

Men's College Basketball • 1st RD
88 2nd 5:24 77
10 Colorado 7 Florida
Eddie Lampkin Jr. offensive rebound.

Men's College Basketball • 1st RD
14 1st 11:41 21
13 Vermont 4 Duke
Mark Mitchell makes dunk. Jared McCain assists.



9:41

Sports

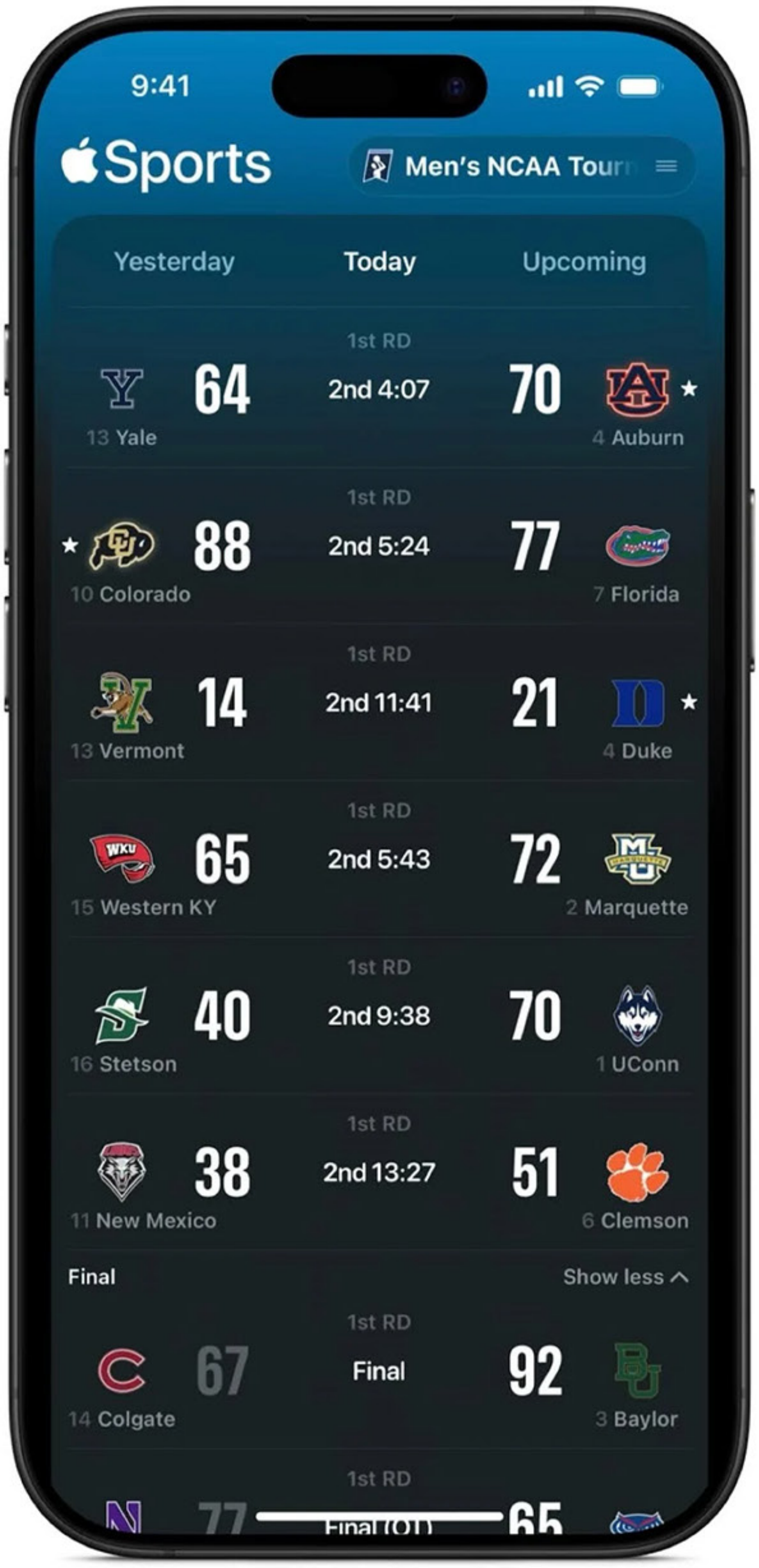
My Leagues

Men's NCAA Tournament
Tap to Follow

Women's NCAA Tournament
Tap to Follow

Yesterday Today Upcoming

		MLB · Spring Training			
Mets	3	▲ 5th	2	Yankees	★
		NBA			
Celtics	106	4th 10:36	87	Pistons	
		NBA			
Thunder	76	3rd 8:05	64	Raptors	
		NHL			
Penguins	2	3rd 11:03	4	Stars	
		NHL			
Blue Jackets	1	2nd 13:36	3	Avalanche	
		NBA			
	17	1st 4:17	19		



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Sports

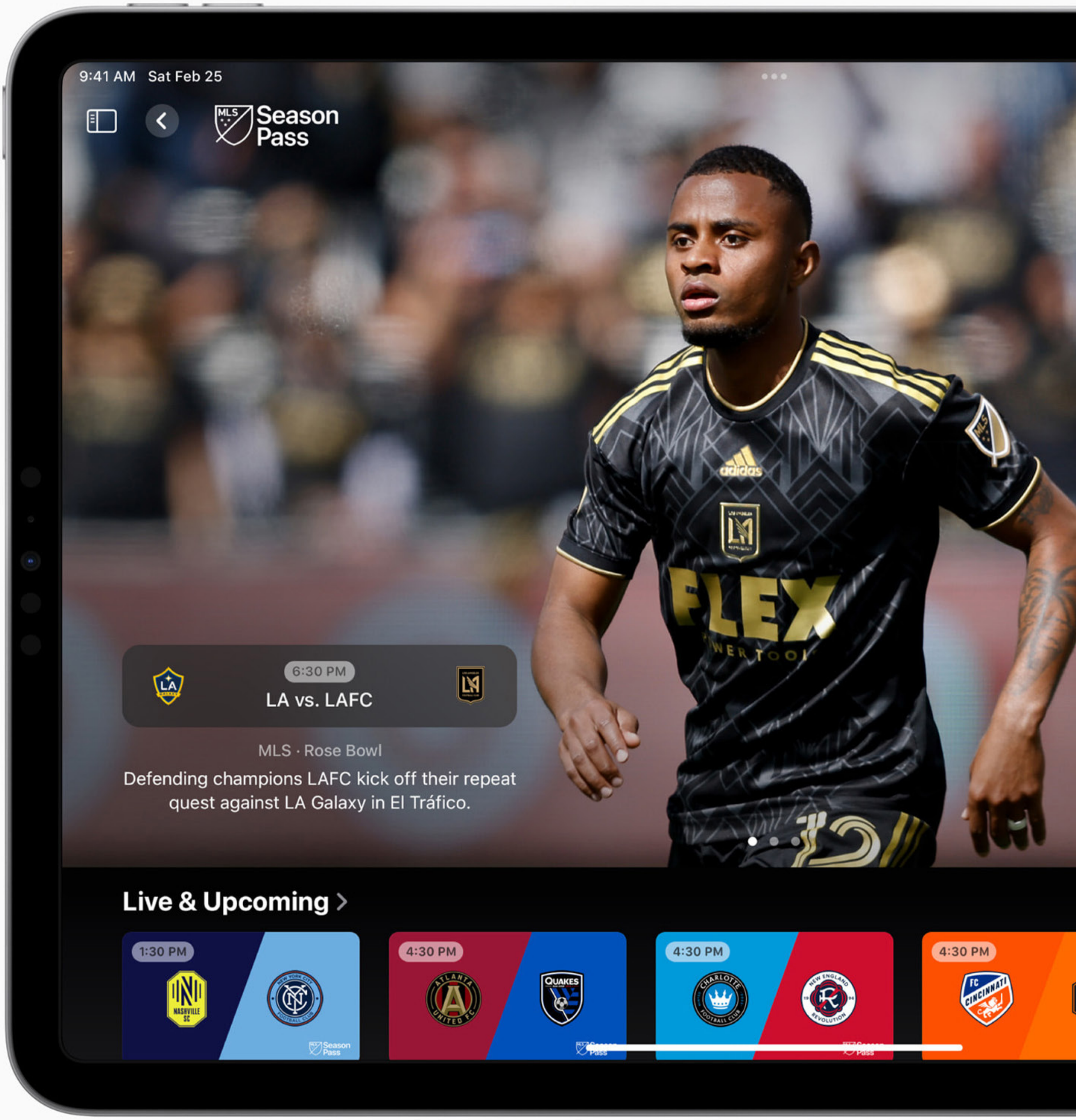
Men's NCAA Tour

Yesterday Today Upcoming

		1st RD			
13 Yale	64	2nd 4:07	70	4 Auburn	★
		1st RD			
★ 10 Colorado	88	2nd 5:24	77	7 Florida	
		1st RD			
13 Vermont	14	2nd 11:41	21	4 Duke	★
		1st RD			
15 Western KY	65	2nd 5:43	72	2 Marquette	
		1st RD			
16 Stetson	40	2nd 9:38	70	1 UConn	
		1st RD			
11 New Mexico	38	2nd 13:27	51	6 Clemson	

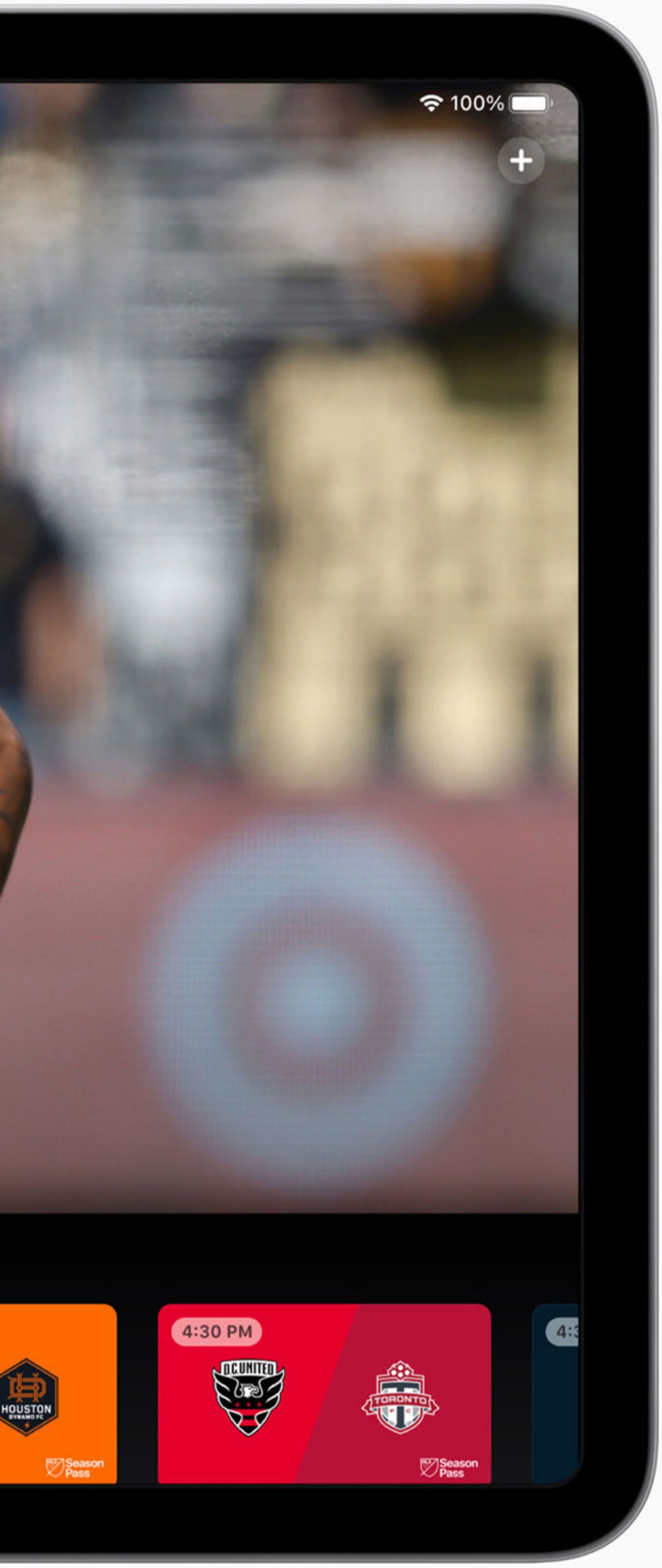
Final Show less

		1st RD		
14 Colgate	67	Final	92	3 Baylor
		1st RD		
	77	Final (OT)	65	


9:41 AM Sat Feb 25
Season Pass
6:30 PM
LA vs. LAFC
Live & Upcoming
1:30 PM
4:30 PM
4:30 PM
4:30 PM

MLS · Rose Bowl

Defending champions LAFC kick off their repeat quest against LA Galaxy in El Tráfico.



advantages: instant notifications, clean design, and integration with other Apple services.

Widgets take this one step further, embedding sports data directly into the user's daily device experience. It reflects Apple's broader philosophy of integrating key services at the system level rather than relying only on standalone apps. For sports fans, it means following a game doesn't require hopping between multiple apps—it's simply there when they unlock their phone or glance at their laptop.

COMPETING IN A CROWDED MARKET

The update also puts Apple Sports more squarely in competition with entrenched sports media brands. ESPN, The Athletic, and Bleacher Report all offer customizable widgets, alerts, and deep editorial coverage. But Apple's unique value proposition is its hardware integration. Because widgets are tied directly into iOS, iPadOS, and macOS, updates arrive faster, notifications are more reliable, and the interface matches the native Apple design language.

This is particularly important as Apple positions itself as a player in live sports distribution. Its MLS Season Pass partnership, exclusive Friday Night Baseball deal, and talks to acquire more rights in the future all suggest Apple wants to be more than a tech company—it wants to be a sports media powerhouse. Apple Sports serves as a funnel into that ecosystem, keeping fans engaged and eventually guiding them to Apple TV subscriptions.

USER DEMAND AND FEEDBACK

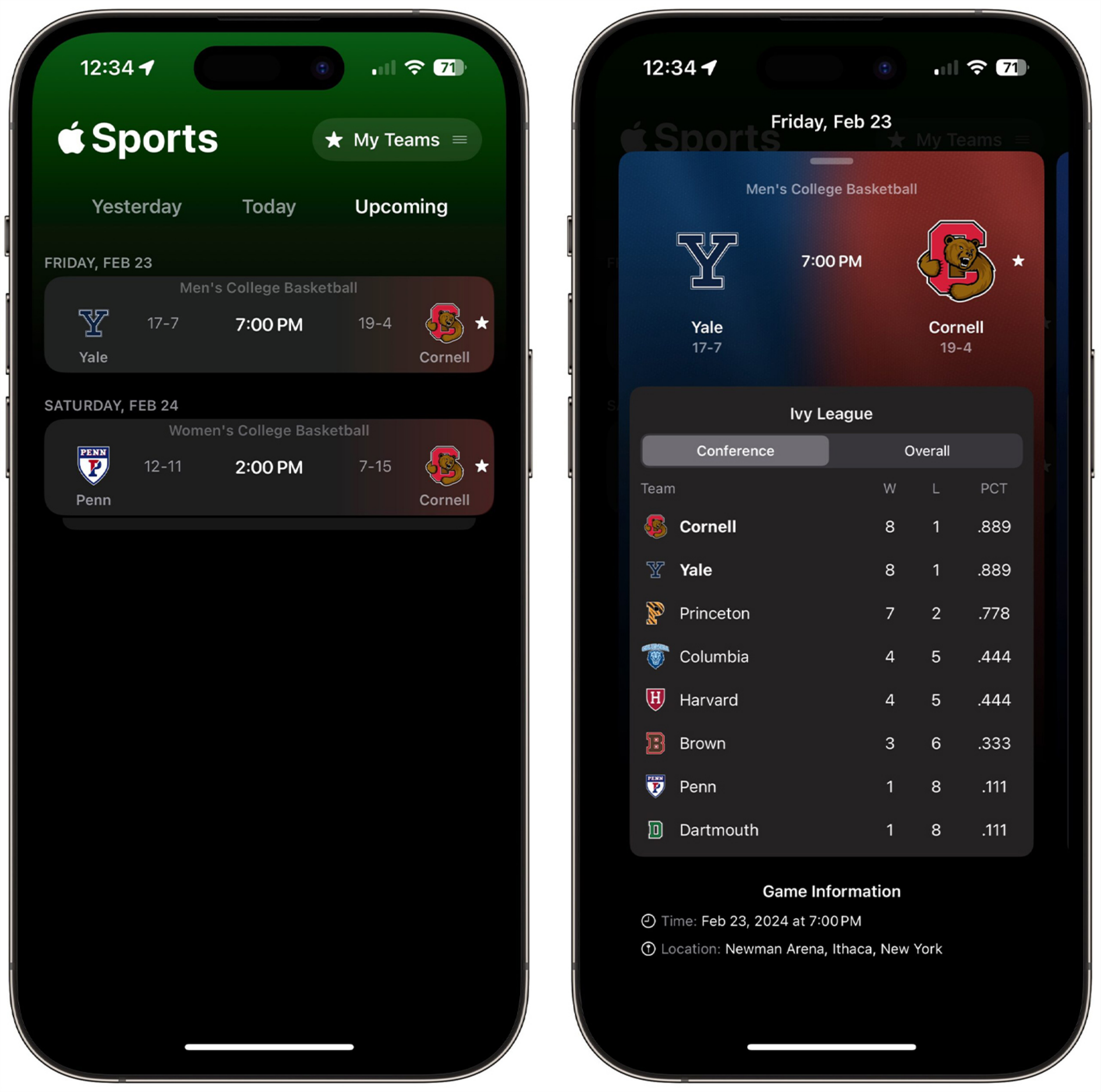
From the start, Apple users asked for widgets. Many early reviews of Apple Sports noted that while the app was sleek, it lacked persistent score-tracking without opening it. Now, with customizable widgets, Apple is directly addressing that demand.

For casual fans, the convenience is clear: tracking a team's score can happen alongside calendar reminders or weather updates on the lock screen. For diehards, widgets mean less friction during busy sports days when multiple games overlap. Apple is betting that a frictionless, always-on sports experience will keep users more attached to its ecosystem.

THE BIGGER PICTURE: SPORTS AS A TECH FRONTIER

Tech companies are increasingly investing in sports as a way to lock in subscribers. Amazon has its NFL Thursday Night Football deal, Google's YouTube has NFL Sunday Ticket, and Disney continues to dominate with ESPN. Apple's approach is different: rather than buying all rights at once, it is slowly building an ecosystem of sports engagement tools—from live games on Apple TV+ to data tracking with Apple Sports.

Widgets extend that reach, ensuring sports fandom becomes part of users' daily digital routines. The company is also exploring AI-powered personalization, with future versions of Apple Sports expected to automatically surface highlights, predict key matchups to watch, and integrate with Apple News for editorial context.


12:34
71
Sports
★ My Teams
Yesterday
Today
Upcoming

FRIDAY, FEB 23

Men's College Basketball

Yale 17-7 · 7:00 PM · 19-4 Cornell ★

SATURDAY, FEB 24

Women's College Basketball

Penn 12-11 · 2:00 PM · 7-15 Cornell ★

12:34
71

Friday, Feb 23

Men's College Basketball

Yale 17-7 · 7:00 PM · Cornell 19-4 ★

Ivy League

Conference
Overall

Team	W	L	PCT
Cornell	8	1	.889
Yale	8	1	.889
Princeton	7	2	.778
Columbia	4	5	.444
Harvard	4	5	.444
Brown	3	6	.333
Penn	1	8	.111
Dartmouth	1	8	.111

Game Information

Time: Feb 23, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Location: Newman Arena, Ithaca, New York

MLS
11:30 AM
MLS
Miami
New York City

Miami's title quest ignites against the only Eastern foe they haven't beaten in the Messi era.

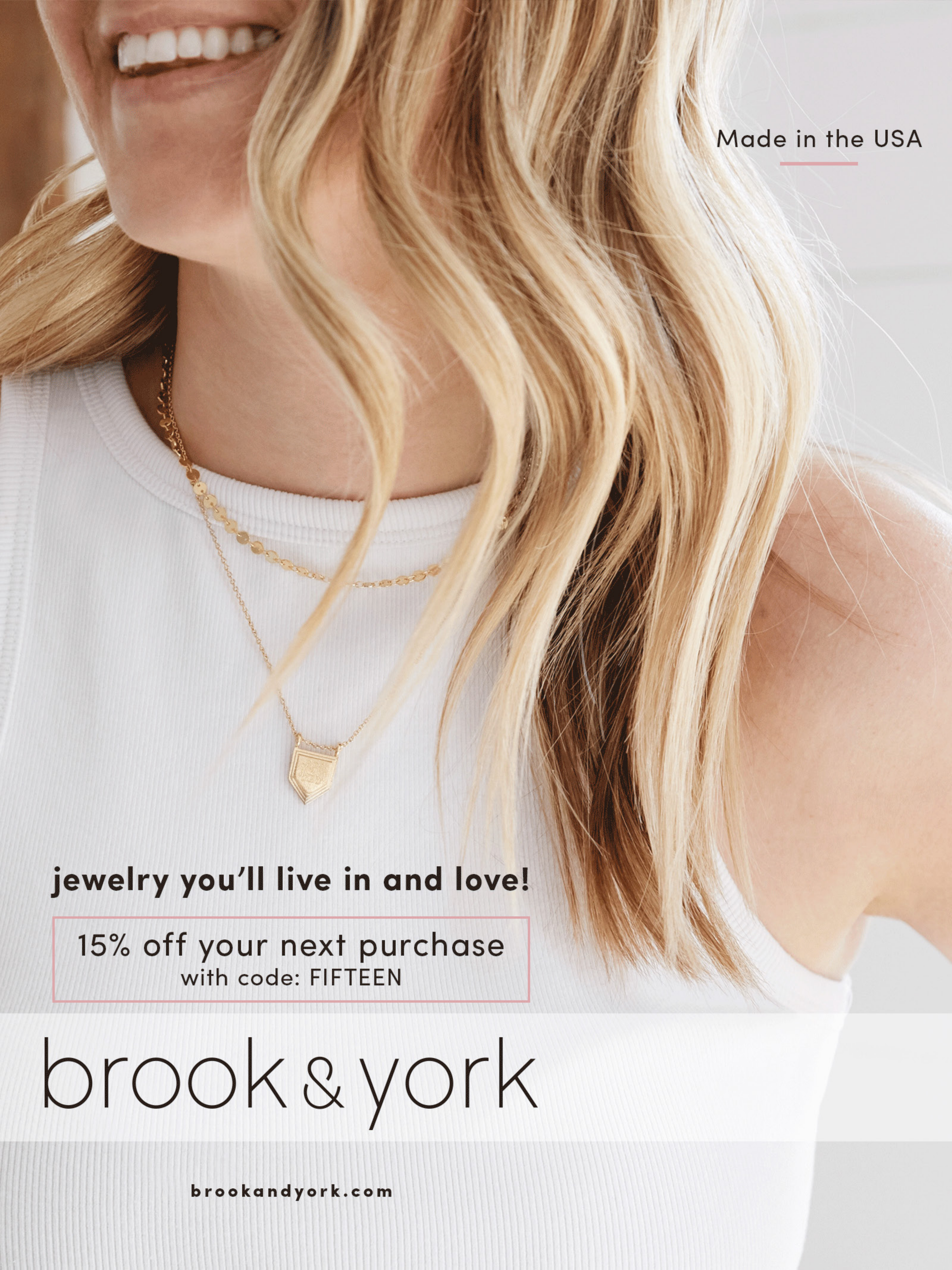
Go to Game
Live Matches
11:30 AM
Miami vs. New York City
1:30 PM
LAFC vs. Minnesota
4:30 PM
Atlanta vs. Montréal

WHAT COMES NEXT

visionOS support is rumored to be on the roadmap, which would allow Vision Pro owners to watch live games in immersive environments while tracking multiple scores as floating widgets around them. Integration with Apple Watch is also expected, potentially bringing haptic goal or touchdown alerts.

For now, though, widgets are the most significant leap yet. They transform Apple Sports from a standalone app into a system-wide sports layer across Apple devices, a move that could prove critical as Apple looks to build a stronger foothold in the multibillion-dollar sports media market.

Home
tv+
MLS
Store
San Diego FC
SAN DIEGO FC
Diego FC's 2025 Schedule Is Here
San Diego vs. St. Louis
Salt Lake vs. San Diego
San Diego vs. Columbus
9:41
MLS
Done
Atlanta United
Austin FC
CF Montréal
Charlotte FC
Chicago Fire FC
Colorado Rapids
Columbus Crew
D.C. United
FC Cincinnati
FC Dallas
Houston Dynamo FC



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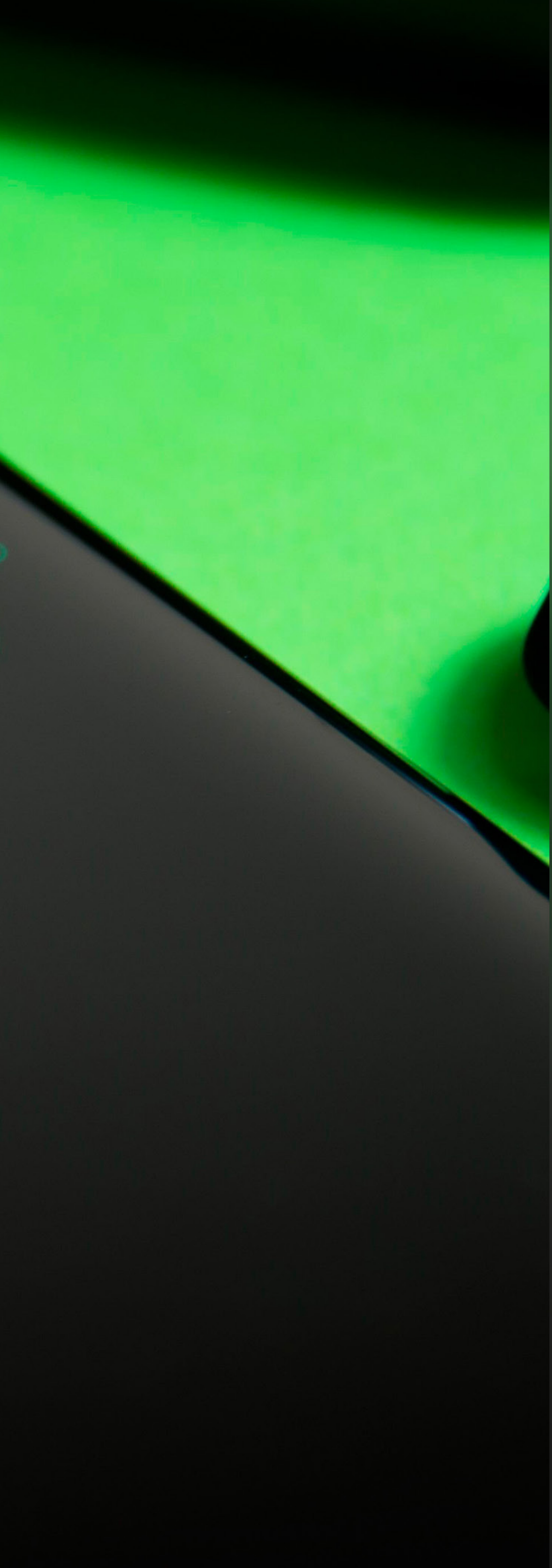
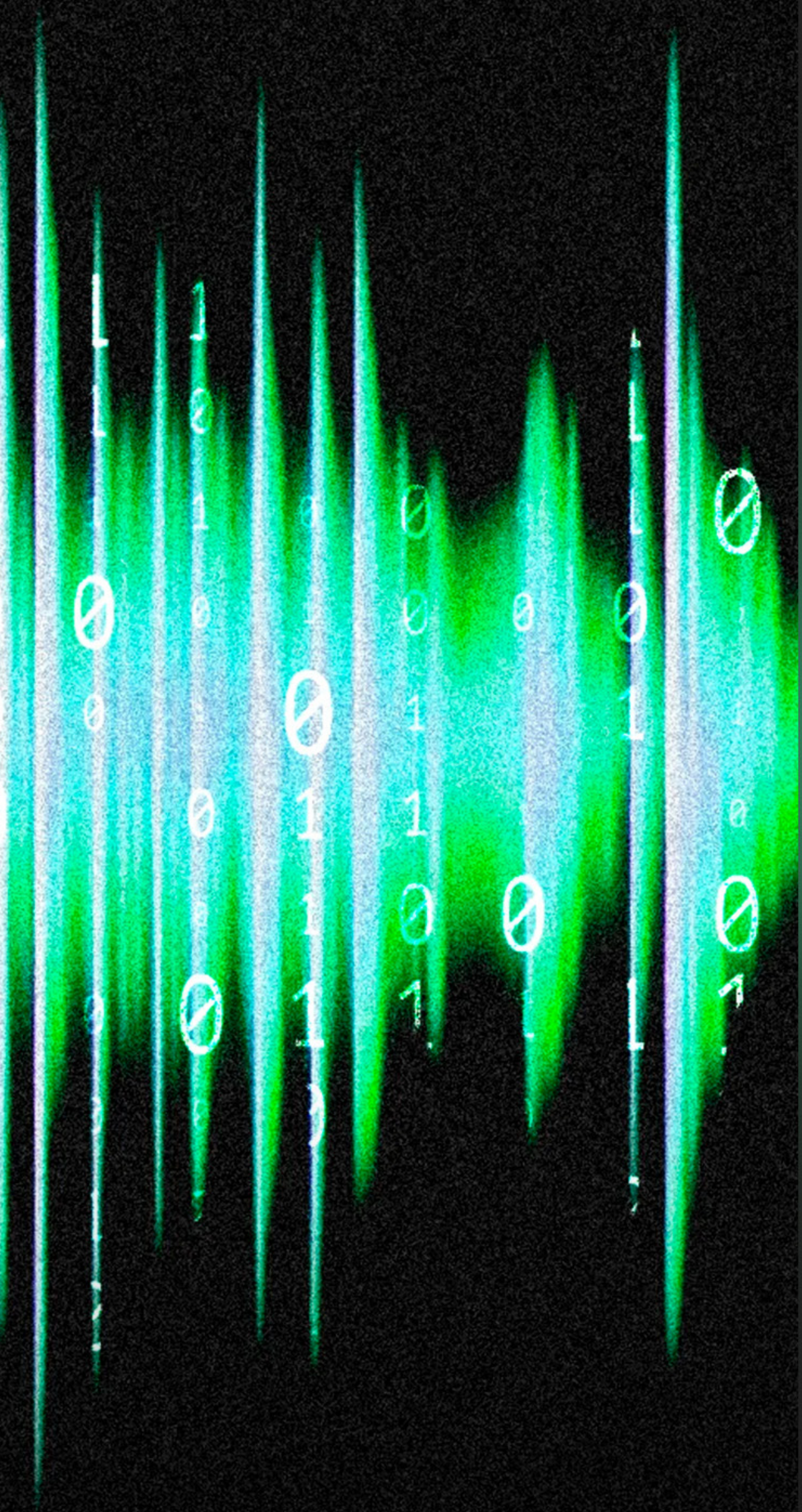


SPOTIFY ENDS SHUFFLE RESTRICTIONS ON FREE TIER, LETTING USERS PLAY ANY SONG ON DEMAND

Spotify is rolling out one of the most significant changes to its free tier in more than a decade: users will soon be able to play the songs they want, when they want, without being forced into shuffle-only listening. The update, which removes one of the last major barriers between Spotify's free and paid tiers, is a bold shift that could reshape the music streaming market—and push rivals to reconsider their own free offerings.



FROM SHUFFLE TO CHOICE

Since Spotify's early years, the free tier has come with limits designed to push listeners toward Premium subscriptions. Chief among them: on-demand song selection was restricted. Free users could only shuffle albums, playlists, or artists, with unlimited on-demand access reserved for Premium subscribers.

That restriction is now being lifted. Free users will gain full control over playback, able to select any track in Spotify's 100-million-song catalog without shuffle. Ads will still play between songs, and offline downloads remain Premium-only, but the core act of choosing songs—long seen as a paid privilege—will now be available to everyone.

"Choice has always been central to Spotify's mission," a company spokesperson said. "We believe it's time to make on-demand listening available to all, while still offering Premium subscribers enhanced features like downloads, higher audio quality, and ad-free playback."

WHY SPOTIFY IS DOING THIS NOW

The move reflects both opportunity and pressure. Spotify remains the world's largest music streaming platform, with more than 600 million users, including around 240 million paying subscribers. But growth in Premium sign-ups has slowed, while free-tier usage continues to expand in emerging markets like India, Southeast Asia, and Latin America.

Analysts say Spotify's leadership sees removing shuffle restrictions as a way to increase engagement among free users, making the platform more attractive in markets where users are reluctant or unable to pay monthly fees. By giving free listeners more control, Spotify also increases the time people spend on the app, boosting ad impressions and revenue.

There's also competitive pressure. Rivals like YouTube Music allow on-demand playback even on free accounts, undercutting Spotify's shuffle-only model. By leveling the field, Spotify is protecting its brand reputation as the go-to music app, not a second-choice experience.

WHAT PREMIUM STILL OFFERS

The change doesn't eliminate the incentive to upgrade. Spotify Premium remains the only way to:

Listen ad-free.

Download music for offline playback.

Access high-quality audio streams.

Skip songs without limit.

Premium subscribers also get early access to new features, like lossless audio streaming, which finally launched this year.

Still, critics say removing shuffle restrictions blurs the line between free and paid too much. “Spotify risks cannibalizing Premium by giving away one of its key features,” said one music industry analyst. “They'll need to rely more on ad revenue to justify the decision.”

IMPACT ON ARTISTS AND THE INDUSTRY

For artists, the change may lead to increased streams as free users select their music directly rather than being pushed into algorithmic shuffles. But it could also intensify debates about streaming payouts, which remain a fraction of a cent per play.

Record labels have historically supported Spotify's restrictions on free users, arguing that keeping some friction was necessary to protect subscription revenues. Whether they'll support this loosening remains to be seen. However, Spotify's dominance in global streaming gives it leverage—few labels can afford to withhold catalogs from the platform.

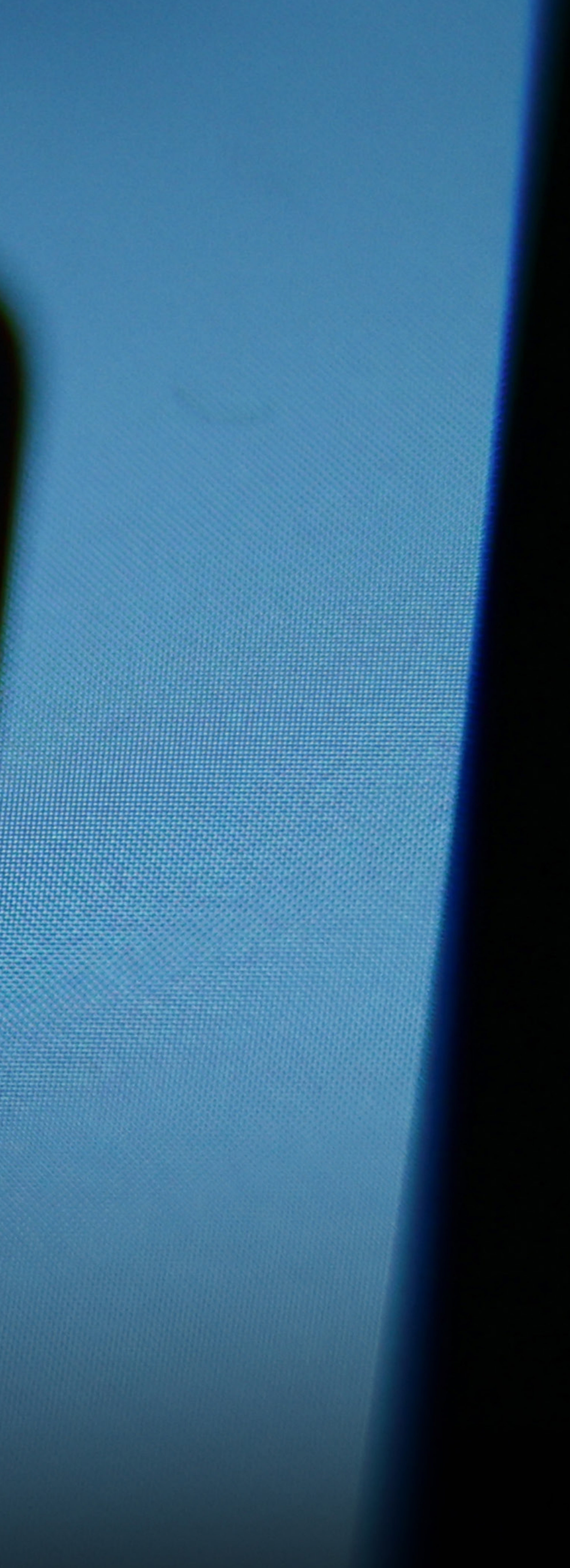
A BIGGER STRATEGIC PICTURE

Spotify's decision fits into its broader strategy of evolving beyond music into an audio-first ecosystem that includes podcasts, audiobooks, and AI-powered personalization. The company is betting that free-tier users who experience on-demand playback will stay within its ecosystem longer, experiment with podcasts, and eventually convert into Premium subscribers when they want extras like downloads and ad-free listening.

The change also aligns with Spotify's increasing emphasis on AI-driven curation. By giving users more control, Spotify can collect richer data on listening habits, which feeds into its recommendation algorithms and targeted advertising.

6:28
Search
open.spotify.com
AA
OPEN APP
Spotify
Friday night, right?
NEW MUSIC FRIDAY
New Music Friday
Get Turnt
Get Turnt
Tomorrow Guest List
Focus
Deep Focus

Image: Jakub Porzycki



A SHIFT FOR LISTENERS

For free users, the update represents a dramatic change in how Spotify can be used. Students studying, travelers planning playlists, or casual listeners at home will now have full playback control without paying, erasing a frustration that has defined Spotify's free experience for years.

At the same time, the move raises questions about the sustainability of streaming's economics. If free tiers become too good, fewer people may see a reason to subscribe—forcing Spotify to double down on ads or diversify into new revenue streams.

WHAT COMES NEXT

Spotify has not given an exact launch date but confirmed that the rollout will begin later this year across major markets, expanding globally in 2026. Executives say they will monitor how the change affects Premium conversion rates, advertising revenue, and overall engagement.

For now, the decision is being hailed as a win for listeners—a long-requested update that finally puts Spotify's free tier on par with rivals. Whether it pays off financially for the company, and what ripple effects it has across the music industry, will become clear only after millions of free users put shuffle aside and start picking their own songs.

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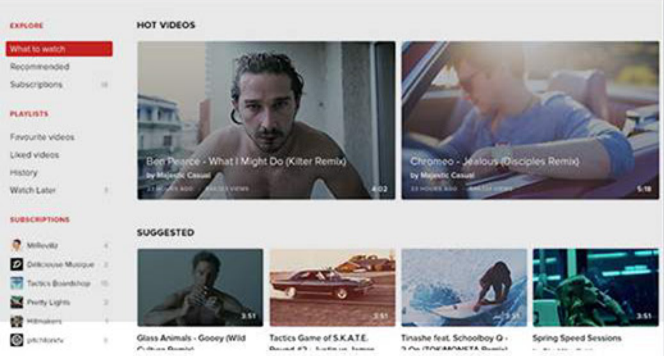
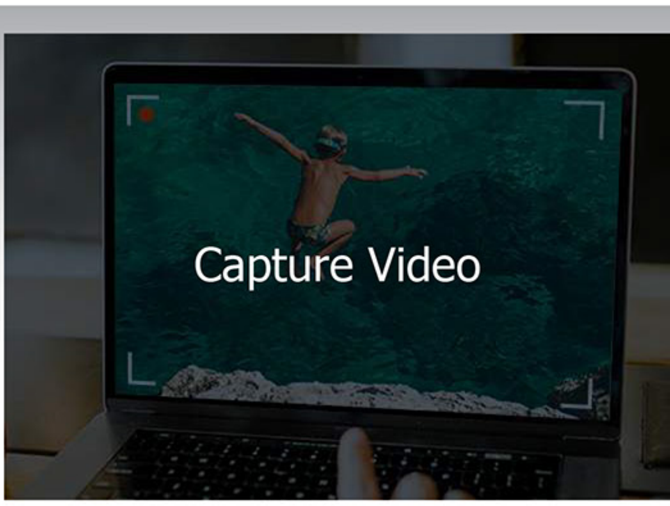


Download

4K Support

Cut Video

Compress



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IOS 26: HOW TO CHANGE YOUR IPHONE'S NEW LIQUID GLASS DESIGN

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Alejandra Delgado

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Apple's iOS 26 brings a major visual overhaul called the Liquid Glass design, a fluid aesthetic update that blends transparency, depth, and motion to make the iPhone interface feel more dynamic. While many users are excited by the fresh look, others prefer a more minimal style. Apple has anticipated this divide, introducing new customization tools that let people adjust or scale back Liquid Glass effects to suit personal preference.

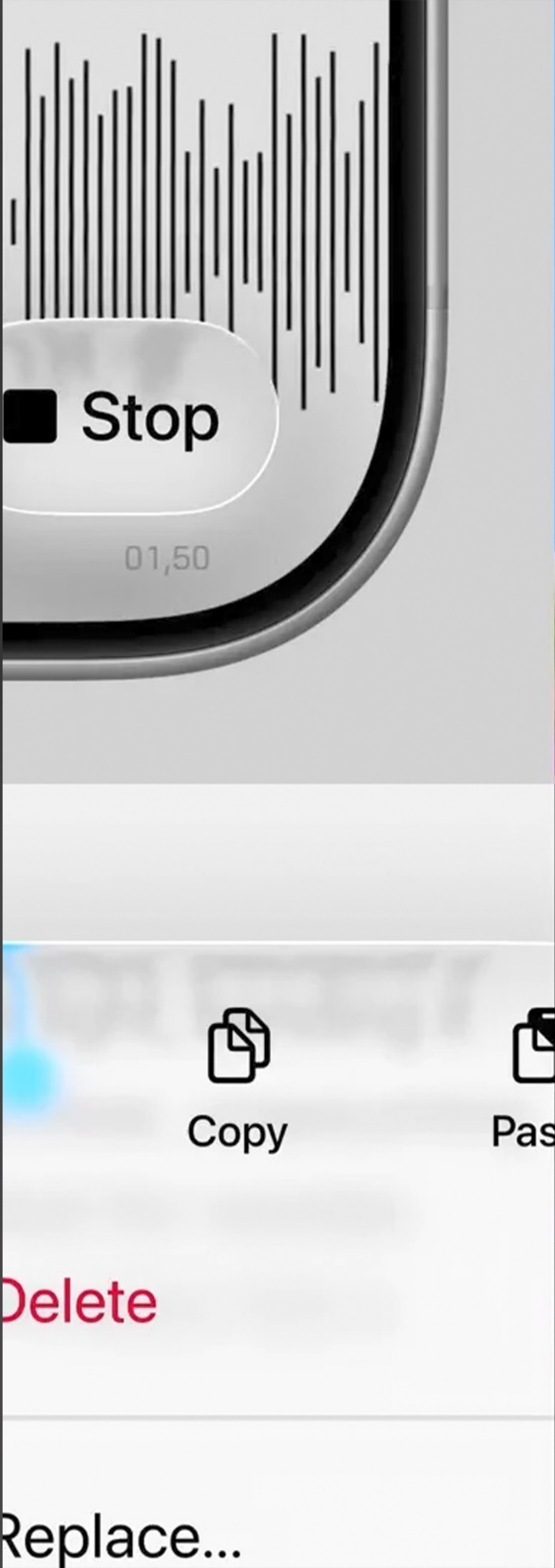
WHAT IS LIQUID GLASS?

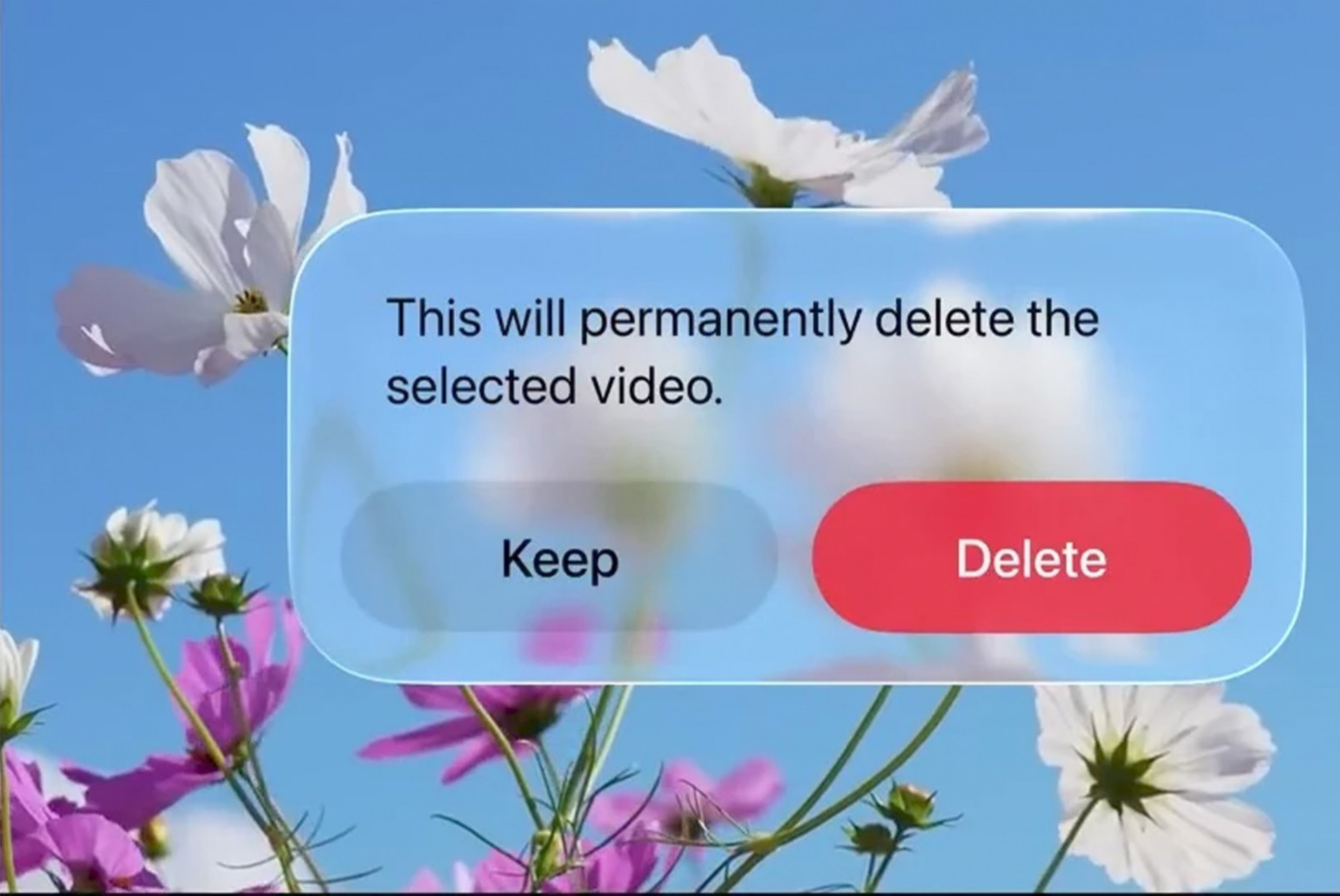
Liquid Glass is Apple's most ambitious design update since iOS 7. It introduces translucent surfaces, dynamic reflections, and shifting highlights that mimic the feel of glass bending under light. Control Center, notifications, and widgets appear to ripple with subtle motion when users swipe or scroll. Apple says the system is designed to feel more "alive," responding to context and movement in ways that mimic the physical world.

The update ties into Apple Intelligence as well, with certain Liquid Glass layers subtly adapting to activity—for example, a calmer background when focus mode is on, or more vibrant colors during media playback. The design is GPU-intensive, making use of Apple's latest chips to render the effect smoothly.

HOW TO CHANGE THE LIQUID GLASS LOOK

For users who find the motion distracting or simply want a more restrained design, iOS 26 includes a Display & Brightness section in Settings where Liquid Glass can be adjusted. Options include:





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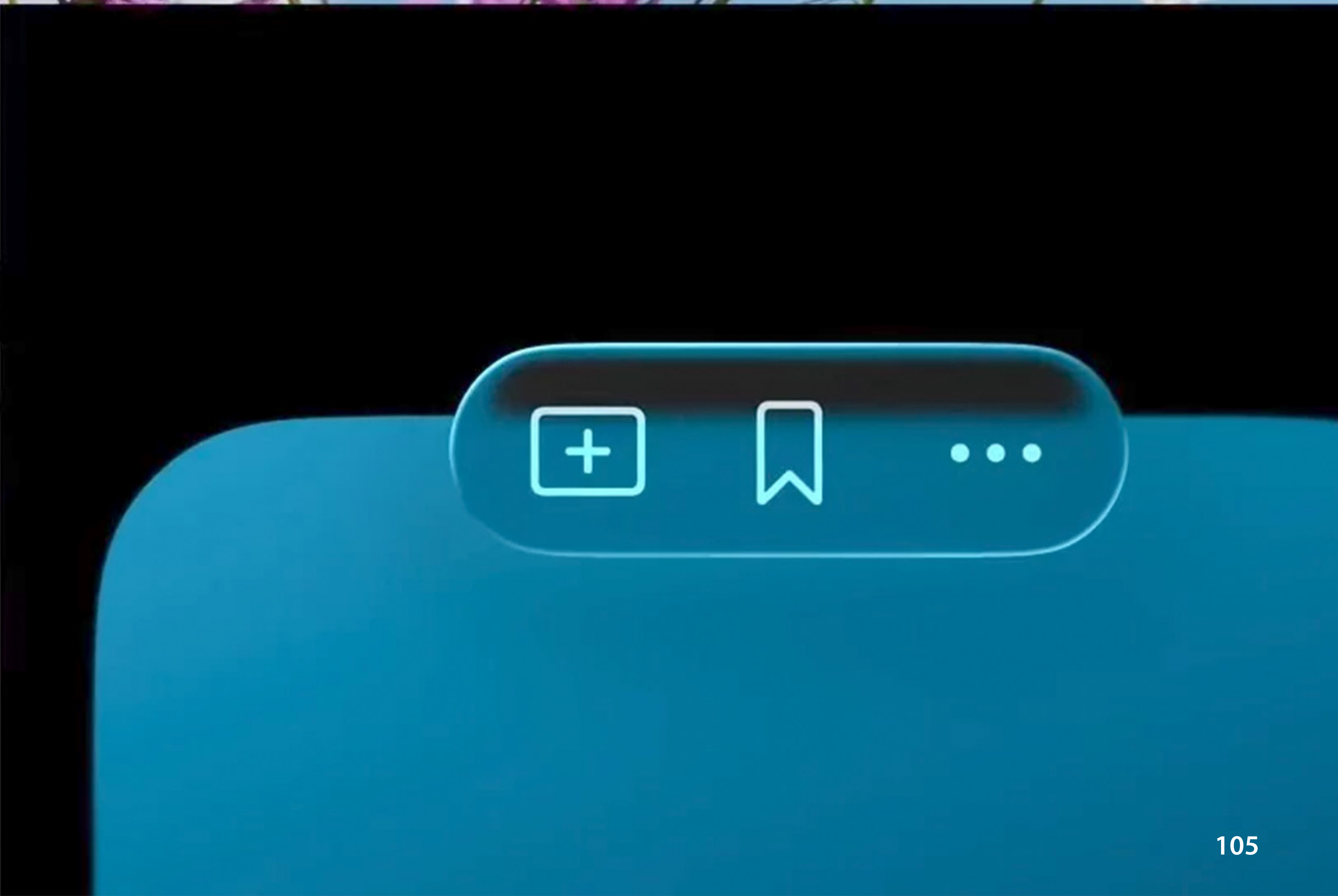

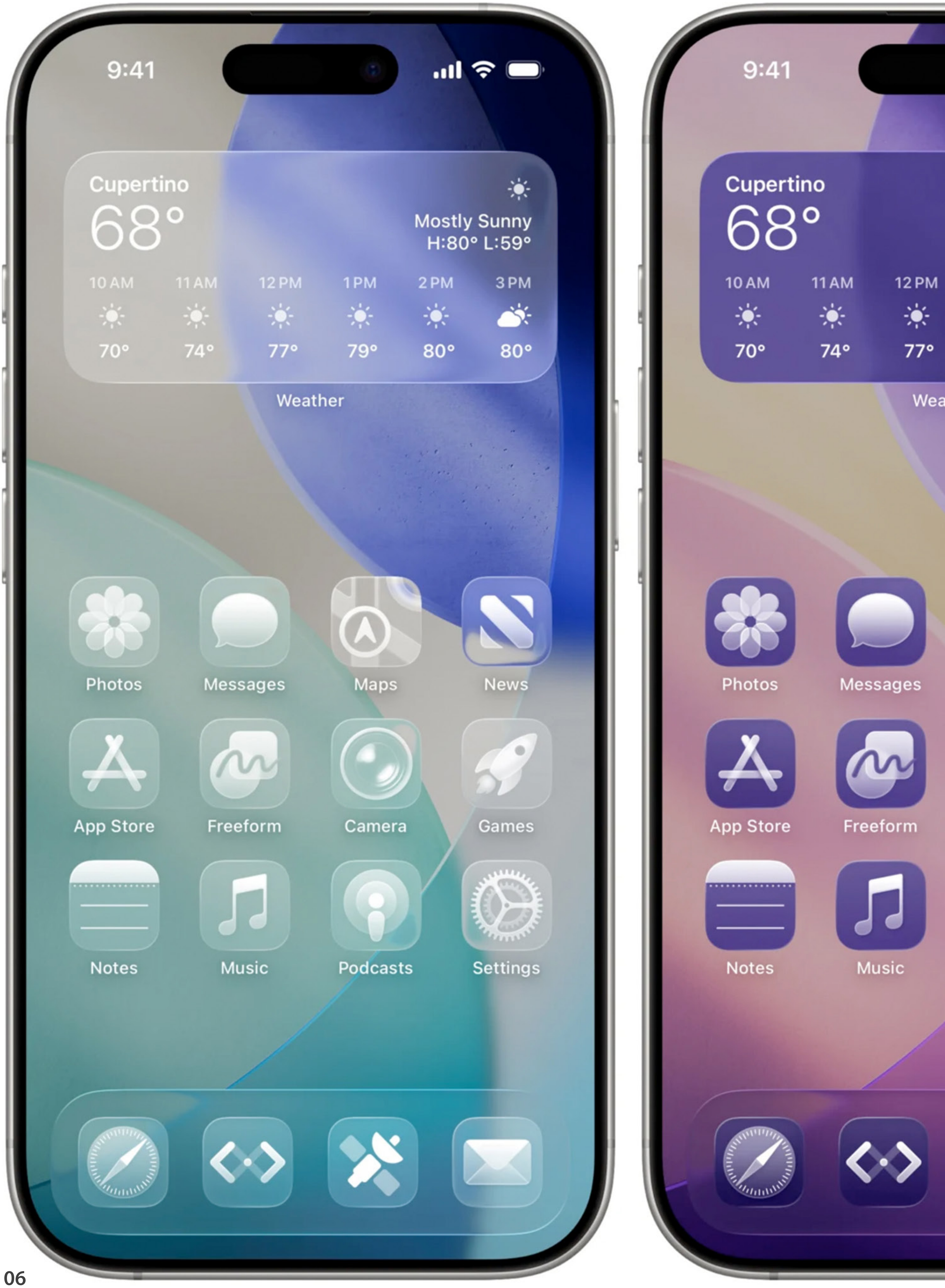
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Settings

Standard Mode: the full Liquid Glass experience with all reflections and motions active.

Static Glass: transparency without dynamic highlights, offering a simpler look with less movement.

Classic: a more traditional, opaque interface that removes most Liquid Glass effects, designed for users who prefer consistency or who want to preserve battery life.

Apple has also included a new Accessibility toggle called Reduce Motion in Liquid Glass, which limits ripple and parallax effects without disabling the design entirely. This was a direct response to early tester feedback that too much animation could feel overwhelming.

PERFORMANCE AND BATTERY CONSIDERATIONS

Because Liquid Glass relies on real-time rendering, it can have an impact on both battery life and performance. Apple says devices with the A18 Bionic and newer handle the design with little cost, but older iPhones may see faster drain if the full effect is enabled.

For that reason, Apple has made Static Glass the default option on older models like the iPhone 14 and 15. Users who want the full Liquid Glass experience on those devices can enable it manually, but Apple cautions that they may notice shorter battery endurance.

WHY APPLE MADE THE CHANGE

Apple describes Liquid Glass as more than an aesthetic choice—it is meant to signal a new era of responsive designwhere the interface feels physically present, blending with hardware and the real world. The company believes users increasingly expect their devices to feel tactile and immersive, even outside of AR and VR headsets.

Critics, however, argue that the feature is Apple's attempt to visually differentiate the iPhone from Android competitors, many of which already support deep interface customization. By introducing a bold system-wide look, Apple is aiming to reset expectations and keep its design language distinctive.

USER REACTIONS SO FAR

Early beta testers are split. Some praise the design as Apple's most playful and fluid UI in years, while others say it feels overdone, cluttered, or battery-hungry. Tech forums and social media show a clear divide: one group treating Liquid Glass as a refreshing modern aesthetic, another immediately disabling it in favor of simpler modes.

Developers are also weighing in. Because third-party apps inherit the new transparency and ripple effects automatically, some developers have had to rework app layouts to prevent readability issues when Liquid Glass interacts with bright colors or dense text. Apple has provided new developer guidelines to address this, but the transition is expected to take time.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

The introduction of Liquid Glass marks another sign of Apple's shift toward personalization and flexibility. After years of criticism that iOS lacked customization compared to Android, Apple is

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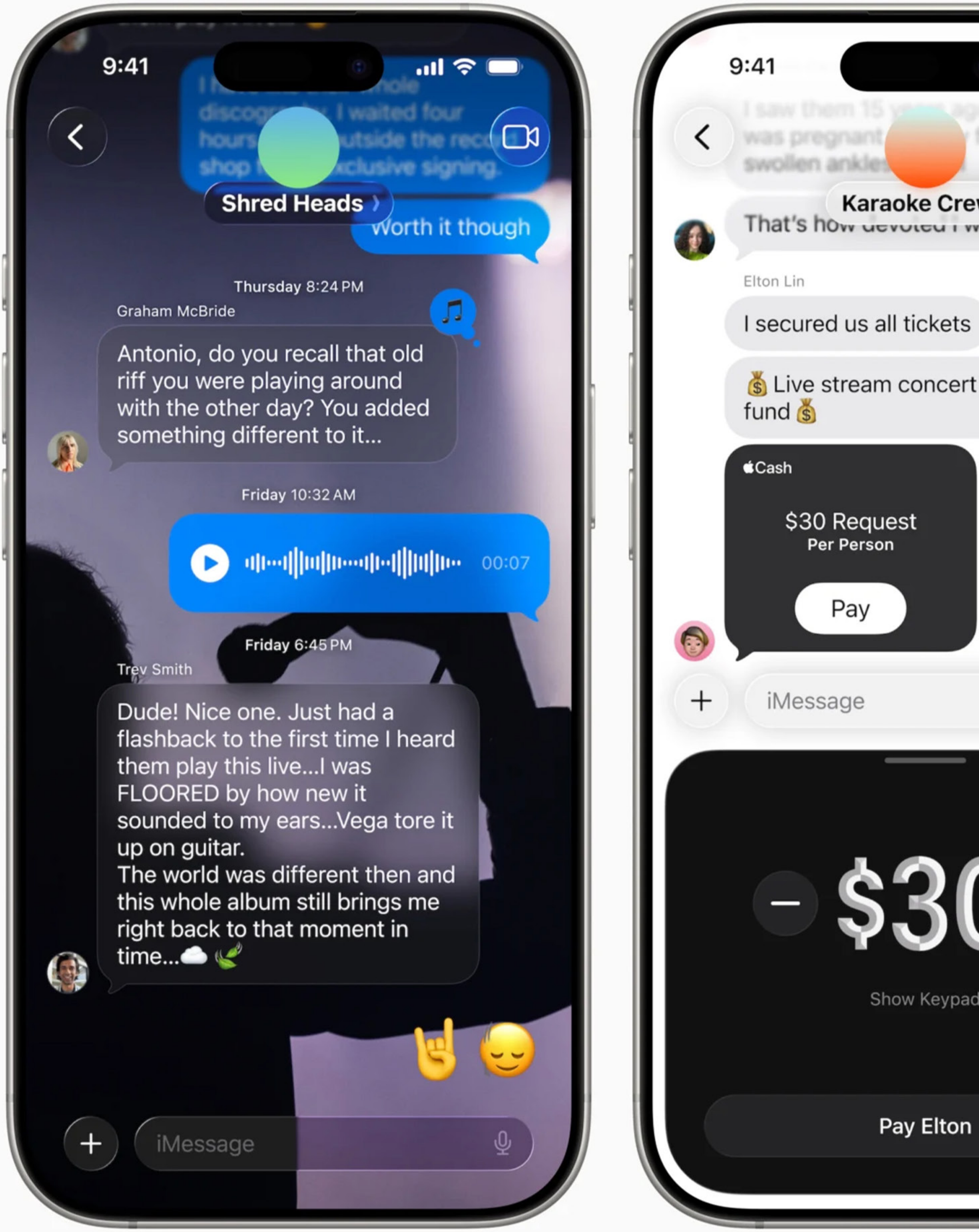
Ray Pai
Hair Track Pro V2.1 Updates
Hey boss, Attaching the latest version of Hair Track Pro for you to take a look at. As you requested, we refined its spatial capture function with the latest iOS capa...

Allegra Tepper
Are you hearing these wild noises coming from the roof of Apple Park or is it just me? Sounds like an F1 race up there or something. Thought I spotted you earlier...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Shred Heads
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Karaoke Cre
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Show Keypad
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Worth it though

Thursday 8:24 PM

Graham McBride

Antonio, do you recall that old riff you were playing around with the other day? You added something different to it...

Friday 10:32 AM

00:07

Friday 6:45 PM

Trev Smith

Dude! Nice one. Just had a flashback to the first time I heard them play this live...I was FLOODED by how new it sounded to my ears...Vega tore it up on guitar.
The world was different then and this whole album still brings me right back to that moment in time...☁️🌿

🤘 😌

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$30 Request
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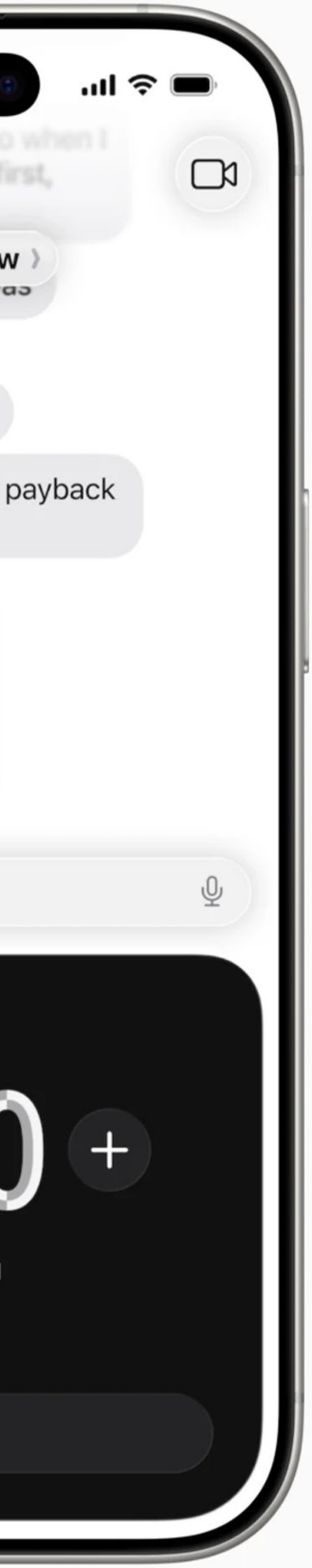

now offering more options—from widgets and lock screen customization in earlier versions to Liquid Glass controls in iOS 26.

At the same time, the company is mindful of accessibility and sustainability. Giving users choices not only addresses aesthetic taste but also reduces performance strain for those on older devices, extending the usable lifespan of iPhones at a time when regulators are pressuring Apple to prove long-term durability.

WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT

Liquid Glass is just the first wave of Apple's design refresh. Sources say Apple is already experimenting with adaptive color palettes that respond to time of day, ambient lighting, or even mood cues from Apple Intelligence. Future updates may bring these dynamic themes more deeply into the ecosystem, eventually syncing across iPadOS and macOS for a unified feel.

For now, iPhone owners upgrading to iOS 26 will notice the biggest visual change in a decade—and thanks to customization options, they'll also have the choice to embrace the full motion of Liquid Glass or scale it back for a more traditional look.

APPLE EXPLAINS IOS 26 BATTERY LIFE IMPACT

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Automatic Updates
Beta Updates
iOS
8.1
26

Apple has confirmed that the rollout of iOS 26 will likely cause noticeable changes in iPhone battery behavior, with some users seeing faster drain in the first few days while others may experience long-term improvements. The company emphasized that the update introduces new background processes and power demands, but also includes optimizations designed to make the iPhone more efficient once everything stabilizes.

WHY IOS UPDATES AFFECT BATTERY LIFE

One of the biggest reasons battery life appears inconsistent after major iOS updates is the

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iOS 26 Public Beta >

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re-indexing process. When iOS 26 installs, the system reprocesses large amounts of local data—including photos, videos, search indexes, and files used by on-device AI models. This activity runs quietly in the background, but it can cause a spike in power consumption for hours or even days depending on how much content is stored on the phone.

Apple noted that this is temporary. Once the device finishes background indexing, battery life should return to normal. But the update also brings new workloads that will remain active over time.

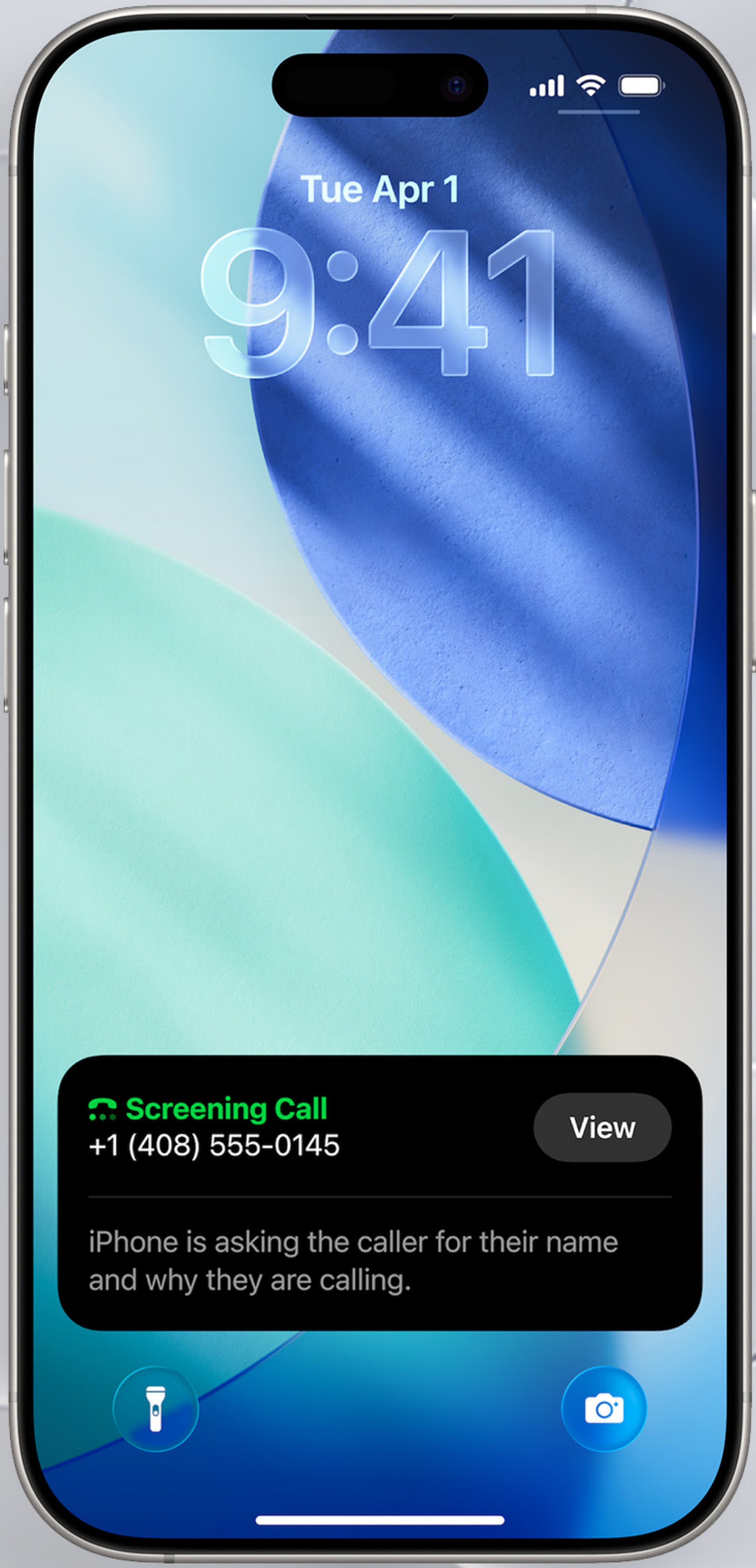
APPLE INTELLIGENCE AND POWER DEMANDS

iOS 26 is the first version to widely deploy Apple Intelligence, the company's suite of AI-driven tools. Features like text rewriting, summarization, and image generation rely heavily on on-device processing, tapping into the A-series chip's Neural Engine.

Even though Apple designed its chips to run these models efficiently, they still consume more power than traditional functions. Combined with smarter notifications, new call screening tools, and more background syncing for Mail and Messages, the OS is fundamentally doing more than before—which means higher baseline power usage in some cases.

WHAT APPLE IS DOING TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT

Apple stressed that efficiency is built into the update. The company said its power management systems continuously adjust to



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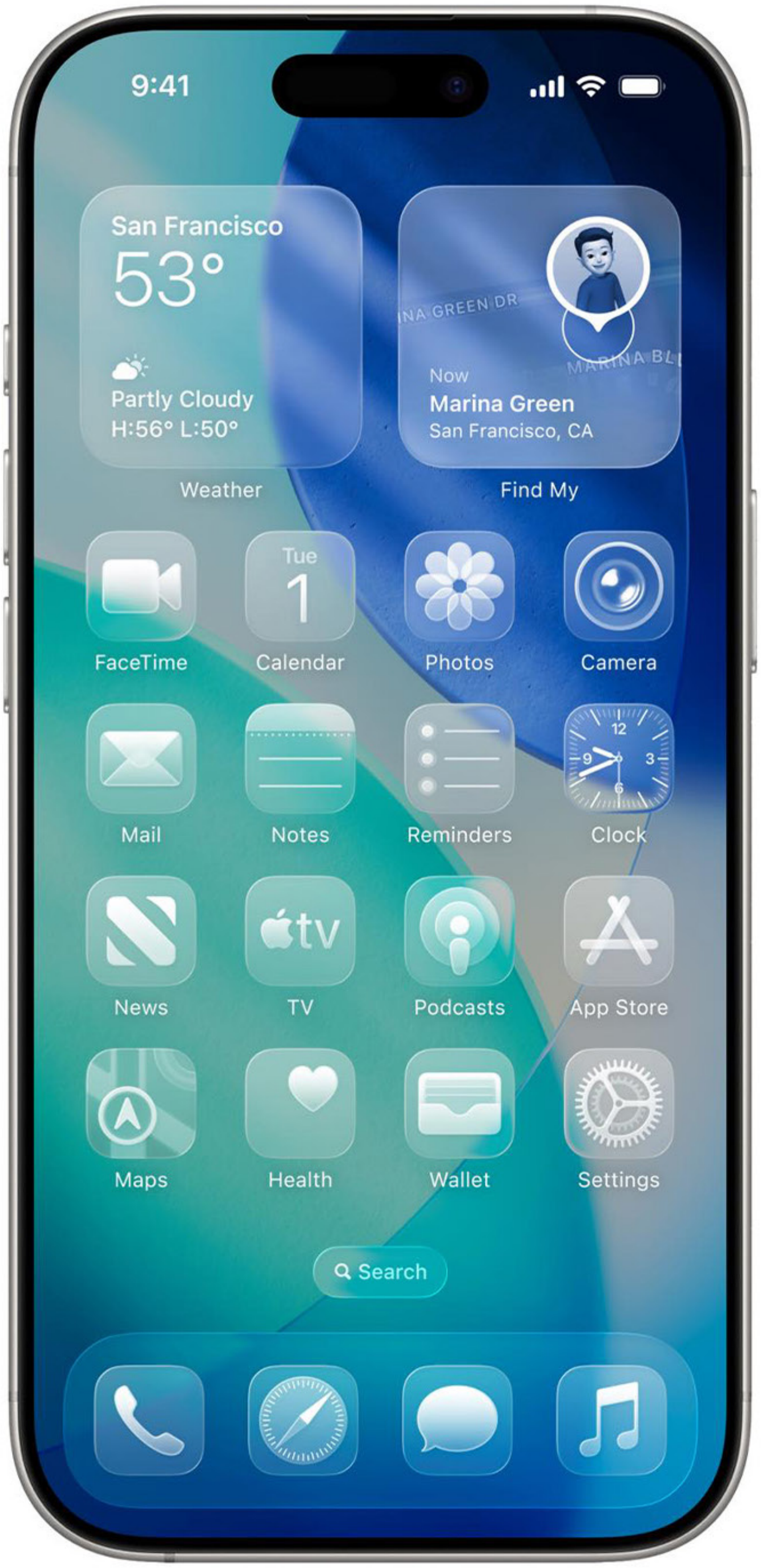
Screening Call
+1 (408) 555-0145
View
iPhone is asking the caller for their name and why they are calling.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FaceTime
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Mail
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Reminders
Clock
News
TV
Podcasts
App Store
Maps
Health
Wallet
Settings
Search

iOS 26

- New Liquid Glass design
- Updated app icons
- New Lock Screen with animated album art
- Live Translation
- Visual Intelligence
- Updated Photos app
- Updated Phone app
- Backgrounds in Messages
- Polls in Messages
- Unknown sender screening
- Call Screening
- Hold Assist on calls
- Adaptive Power Mode
- AutoMix in Music
- Lyrics Translation in Music
- Digital ID in Wallet
- Games app
- Preview app
- New CarPlay experience

balance performance, thermal management, and battery drain.

iOS 26 also expands battery health features, giving users a clearer breakdown of how power is being consumed by apps and system functions. This transparency is meant to help users identify battery-hungry apps and adjust their settings.

The update keeps support for Optimized Battery Charging, which reduces wear by learning users' charging habits, and Clean Energy Charging, which times charging to coincide with periods of lower grid emissions. Apple argues that these measures help extend long-term battery health even if daily drain fluctuates with new features.

USERS MAY SEE DIFFERENT OUTCOMES

Not all iPhones will react the same way to iOS 26. Devices with newer chips, like the iPhone 16 and 17 series, will handle Apple Intelligence tasks more efficiently than older models. Users with large photo libraries or heavy app use may notice a longer period of post-update drain while the system completes background processes.

Apple recommends giving devices several charging cycles before evaluating battery performance. It also suggests reviewing the new Battery section in Settings, where iOS now provides per-feature consumption breakdowns to help users decide which functions to keep active.

THE BROADER CONTEXT: APPLE'S AI STRATEGY VS. POWER LIMITS

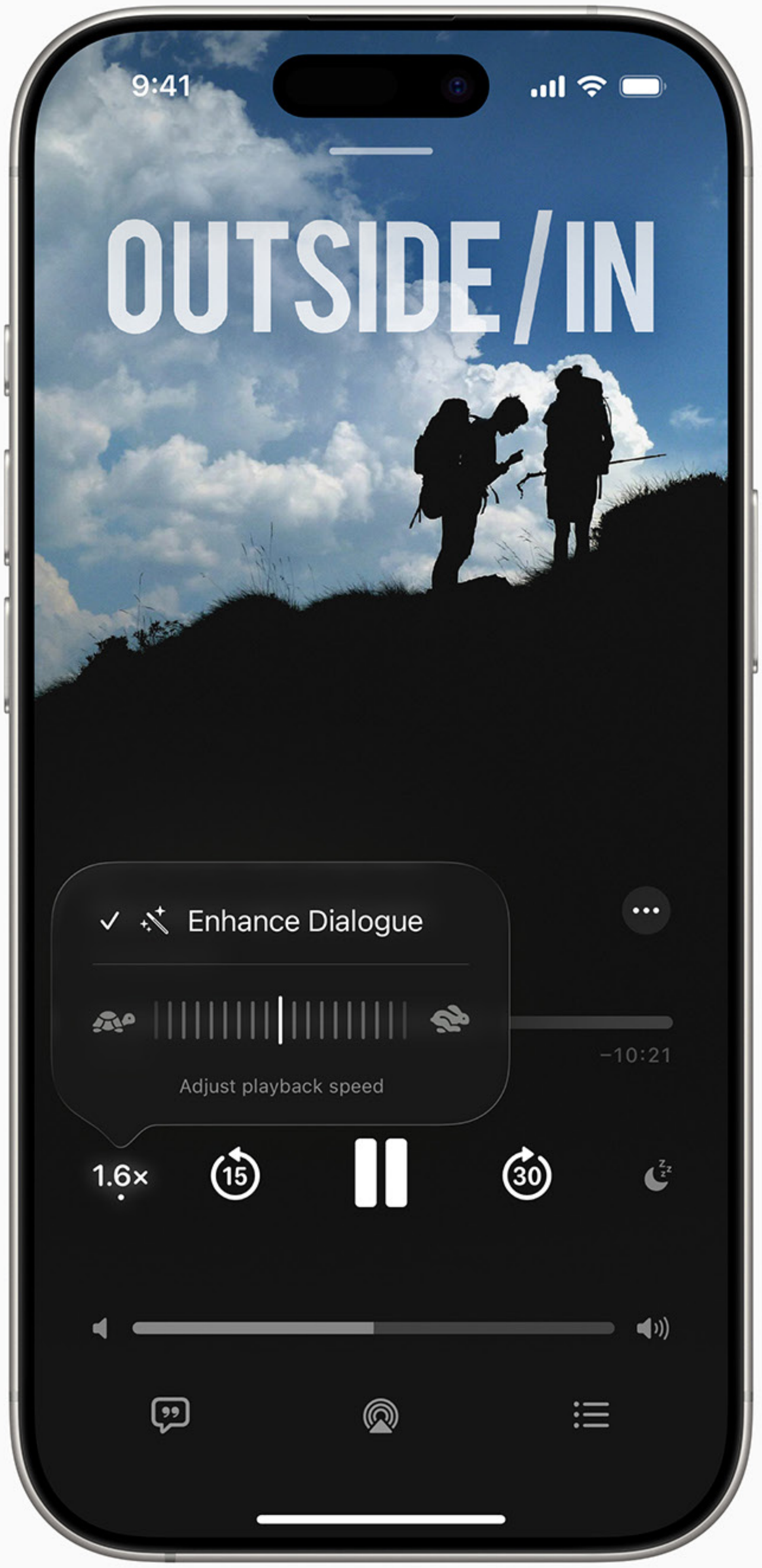
Apple's explanation comes as the company faces scrutiny over how much power on-device AI features require. Unlike Google and Microsoft, which rely heavily on cloud infrastructure, Apple is committed to keeping most AI workloads local for privacy reasons. This improves security but shifts the burden onto hardware, raising the stakes for battery optimization.

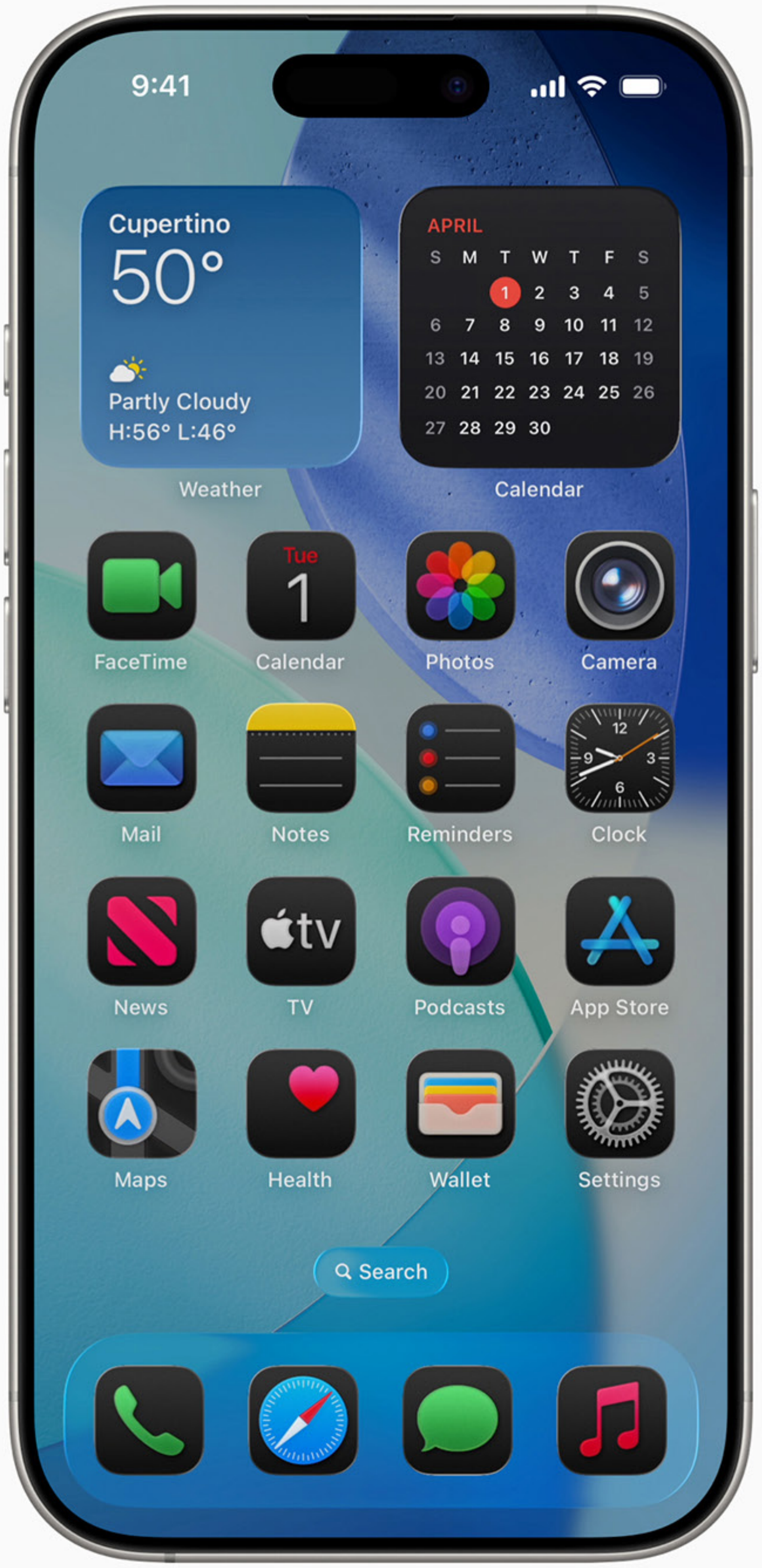
Analysts say this tradeoff could define the next generation of iPhone design. "Apple wants AI to feel invisible, but invisible doesn't mean free," one industry researcher said. "Battery efficiency will determine how far they can push Apple Intelligence on mobile devices."

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER SEPTEMBER 15

iOS 26 will begin rolling out on September 15, alongside iPadOS 26 and macOS 26 Tahoe. While some users may initially complain of battery drain, Apple insists that long-term performance should stabilize and, in many cases, improve thanks to deeper optimizations in background scheduling and system efficiency.

Still, the update highlights the tension at the heart of modern smartphones: users want more powerful features without sacrificing battery longevity. As Apple leans further into AI-driven tools, that balancing act will only become more important—and more visible to everyday iPhone owners.

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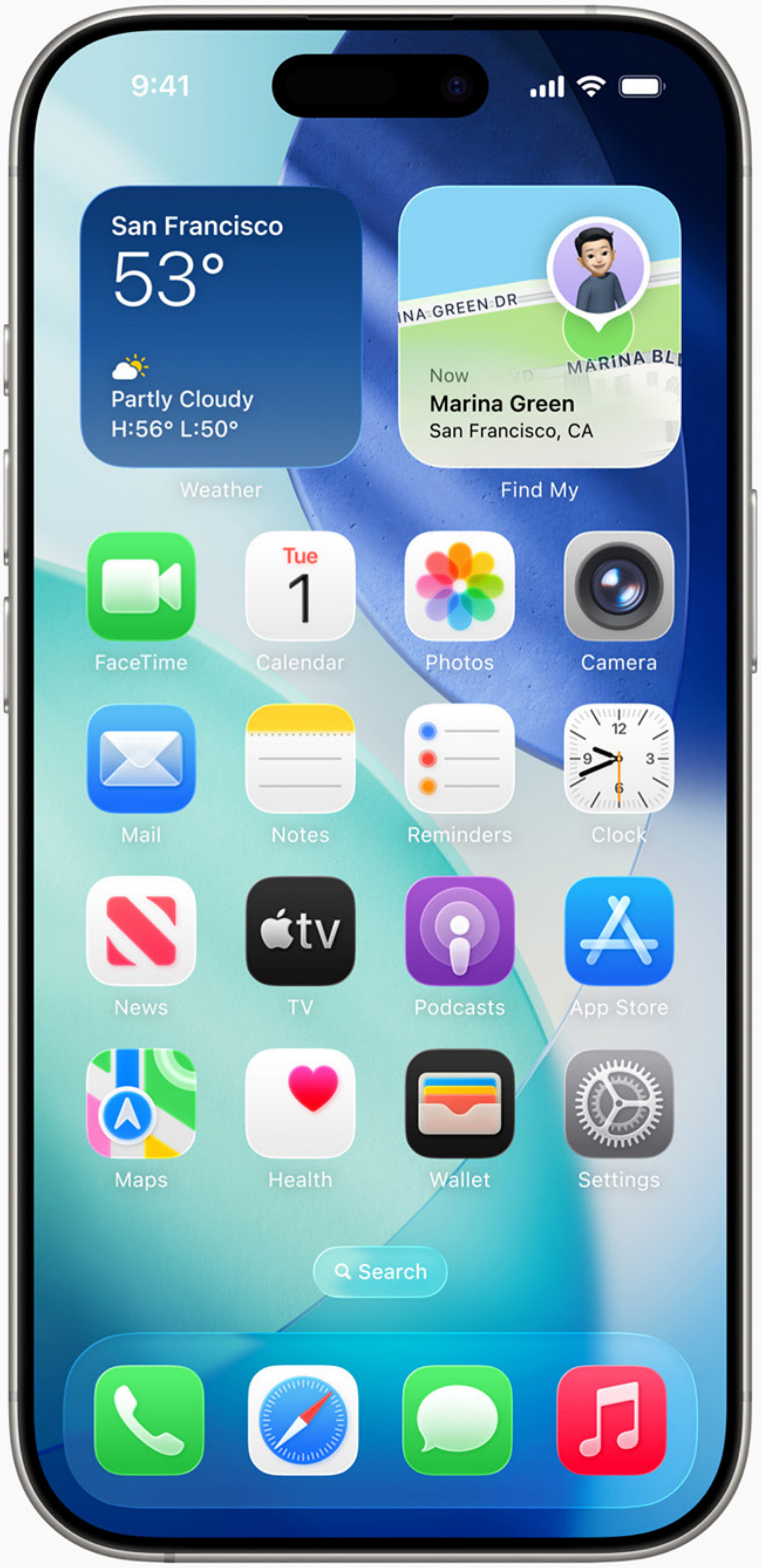
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XIAOMI’S NEXT FLAGSHIP ADDS SECOND REAR DISPLAY WITH IPHONE-INSPIRED NAME

LEICA

Xiaomi is preparing to launch its next flagship smartphone, and leaks suggest it will come with one of the boldest design choices in recent years: a secondary display on the back of the device. But what is grabbing just as much attention as the hardware is the name—reportedly inspired by Apple's iPhone lineup.

A SECOND DISPLAY FOR MULTITASKING

According to industry insiders, Xiaomi's upcoming flagship will feature a compact rear-facing OLED screen located near the camera array. The display will serve multiple purposes, including showing notifications, battery status, music controls, and even a viewfinder for selfies using the main camera system.

The feature could address one of the pain points of modern smartphones—relying on the front-facing camera for self-portraits. By letting users preview shots on the rear display, Xiaomi may encourage higher-quality selfies using the primary lens, a feature that photography enthusiasts are likely to embrace.

THE NAME THAT HAS PEOPLE TALKING

Reports from Chinese tech outlets indicate the device will be branded the Xiaomi iPhone Ultra, a name that appears to borrow directly from Apple's premium branding strategy. While Xiaomi has not confirmed the naming officially, early marketing leaks show the term being used in internal communications.

If true, the move underscores Xiaomi's willingness to lean into Apple-style prestige branding. The "Ultra" suffix has long been a part of Samsung's Galaxy line, but pairing it with "iPhone" could

generate controversy over trademark concerns while also sparking consumer curiosity.

COMPETITION IN THE FLAGSHIP ARENA

The new device is expected to compete directly with Apple's iPhone 17 Pro Max and Samsung's Galaxy S25 Ultra, both of which emphasize camera performance and premium design. By adding a secondary display, Xiaomi is looking to carve out a niche feature that neither rival currently offers at scale.

Analysts say the strategy fits Xiaomi's reputation for pushing bold design experiments, from transparent phone backs to concept devices with waterfall displays. However, sustaining those innovations at scale is often difficult, and secondary displays have historically struggled to move beyond novelty.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

While the rear display offers unique functionality, it raises questions about battery life, durability, and software integration. Maintaining two OLED screens could place additional strain on the phone's power management system. Developers will also need to design apps that use the second display meaningfully rather than treating it as a gimmick.

There are also questions about how regulators—and Apple itself—might respond to Xiaomi's naming choice. If the "iPhone Ultra" branding makes it to market, it could face legal challenges, especially in Western markets where Apple fiercely protects its trademarks.

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WHAT TO EXPECT

The new Xiaomi flagship is expected to debut in early 2026, with availability first in China before expanding to international markets. Pricing is rumored to be aggressive compared to Apple and Samsung, staying in line with Xiaomi's value-driven strategy.

For now, the mix of hardware novelty and provocative branding ensures the device will make headlines before it even launches. Whether the second screen proves useful—or the iPhone-inspired name sticks—remains to be seen, but Xiaomi is clearly betting that bold risks will help it stand out in a crowded flagship market.

AMAZON INTRODUCES AI AGENT TO HELP SELLERS WITH TEDIOUS TASKS

Amazon is rolling out a new AI-powered agent designed to assist its millions of marketplace sellers by automating time-consuming tasks such as responding to customer questions, managing product listings, and handling inventory-related inquiries. The move represents one of Amazon's most ambitious applications of generative AI in its e-commerce ecosystem, aimed at streamlining operations for third-party sellers who now account for more than 60% of sales on the platform.

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A NEW TOOL FOR SELLERS

The AI agent, currently in phased rollout, can draft product descriptions, automatically answer routine customer messages, generate recommendations for pricing adjustments, and suggest keywords for improving visibility in Amazon search results. It can also analyze performance data, flagging listings that may benefit from updates or identifying stock shortages before they become problems.

Amazon said the tool was trained on a mixture of retail data, product information, and conversational AI models, with safeguards to prevent inaccurate or misleading outputs. The system is integrated directly into Seller Central, meaning merchants don't have to switch tools or platforms to access the new features.

SOLVING TEDIOUS WORK

The company argues that many sellers spend far too much time on administrative and repetitive work—tasks that don't directly drive sales but are necessary to keep storefronts running. "Our goal is to free up time so sellers can focus on what matters most: growing their businesses and serving customers," an Amazon spokesperson said.

By automating product descriptions, for example, the AI can help sellers who previously struggled to write compelling copy in English or lacked resources for professional listings. In customer service, the agent can draft polite, accurate responses to common questions like shipping times or return policies, reducing the burden on small businesses that don't have dedicated support teams.

COMPETITIVE CONTEXT

Amazon's launch comes as rivals like Shopify and eBay are also embedding generative AI into their platforms. Shopify recently added AI-driven assistants to help merchants manage storefronts and marketing campaigns, while eBay has rolled out tools for product photo enhancement and AI-assisted descriptions.

However, Amazon's scale—serving more than 2 million active sellers worldwide—makes this rollout potentially the most impactful. Analysts say that if even a fraction of sellers adopt the AI agent, it could shift the dynamics of online retail, accelerating the pace at which new products are listed and reducing friction for both merchants and customers.

RISKS AND CRITICISM

Despite its promise, Amazon's AI agent raises questions about accuracy, bias, and transparency. Generative AI is known to sometimes produce incorrect or misleading information, and sellers worry that relying too heavily on automation could harm customer trust. Amazon has stated that sellers will remain in control: the AI drafts suggestions, but merchants must approve them before they go live.

There are also concerns about whether the tool will give larger sellers disproportionate advantages. Bigger retailers with teams dedicated to optimization may be able to pair AI with human oversight for maximum impact, while small sellers might depend more heavily on automation, risking errors slipping through.

Consumer advocates have also raised questions about whether AI-generated responses will be

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clearly disclosed to customers, who may assume they are speaking to a human.

AI IN THE BROADER AMAZON STRATEGY

For Amazon, the new seller agent is part of a larger push to weave AI into all corners of its business. The company is using machine learning to improve logistics, power Alexa's new conversational capabilities, and strengthen its advertising platform with better targeting. By giving sellers AI-driven tools, Amazon also strengthens its flywheel effect: more efficient merchants mean more product variety and faster updates, which in turn draw more customers.

The move also doubles as a defensive play. With Microsoft and Google racing to embed AI in productivity and commerce, Amazon needs to demonstrate that its marketplace remains technologically ahead. Integrating AI into Seller Central—the nerve center of its e-commerce empire—helps ensure merchants stay loyal rather than migrating to competitors.

WHAT'S NEXT

Amazon says the rollout will expand gradually, with new features added over time. Future versions of the AI agent may be able to automatically translate listings into multiple languages, generate product images from text prompts, or even optimize inventory placement across Amazon's warehouses to reduce delivery times.

For sellers, the tool could represent a shift in how they operate: less time on busywork, more time on product development, branding, and customer engagement. For Amazon, it's another way to entrench its platform as the essential infrastructure of global online retail.

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NEW AI MODEL COULD PREDICT DISEASE RISK TEN YEARS BEFORE SYMPTOMS

Researchers have developed a new artificial intelligence model capable of predicting a person's risk of developing serious diseases up to a decade before symptoms appear. The breakthrough, detailed this week in medical journals, could transform preventative healthcare by identifying risks for conditions like cancer, heart disease, and neurological disorders long before they manifest.

HOW THE MODEL WORKS

The AI was trained on millions of patient records, genetic data, and medical imaging scans, enabling it to spot subtle biological markers and patterns that traditional diagnostics often miss. By analyzing a patient's medical history in combination with lifestyle data, bloodwork, and imaging, the system generates a personalized "risk profile" for a wide range of illnesses.

Unlike existing predictive models, which are usually limited to one disease, this AI can evaluate multiple conditions simultaneously. Researchers say it has already demonstrated success in predicting the likelihood of Alzheimer's up to 10 years in advance, cardiovascular disease up to 8 years out, and certain cancers years before tumors would normally be detectable.

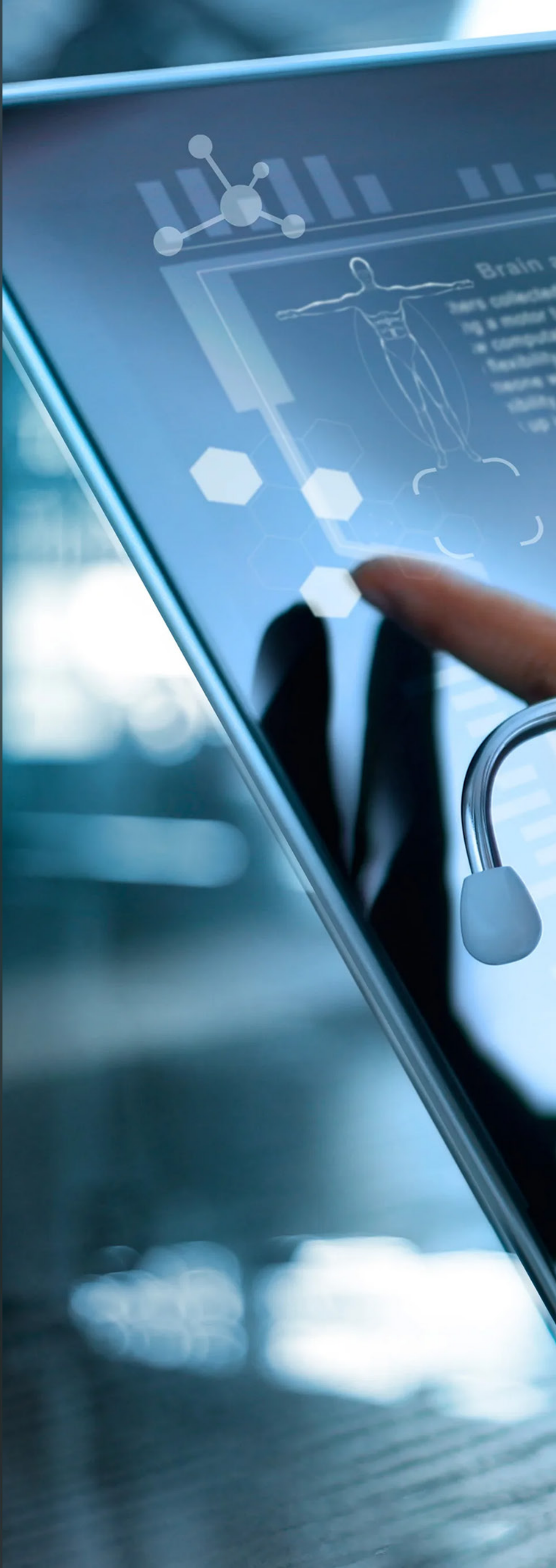
EARLY TRIAL RESULTS

In initial trials across hospitals in Europe and the U.S., the model correctly identified high-risk patients with over 80% accuracy. For example, in a cohort of middle-aged patients, the AI flagged individuals who later developed early-stage breast cancer, even though their mammograms had appeared normal at the time of testing.

Doctors say the system is not meant to replace human judgment but to act as an early-warning system. "We've never had a tool that can look this far ahead across so many diseases," said one lead researcher. "It means we can intervene earlier, sometimes years earlier, when treatments are more effective."

THE PROMISE OF PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE

If widely adopted, the AI model could reshape healthcare by shifting focus from treatment to prevention. Patients identified as high risk could receive targeted screenings, lifestyle interventions, or preventative therapies long before symptoms



Overview of Your Health
Blood Pressure
122
AI
Smart Stats

develop. This approach could reduce healthcare costs dramatically while improving survival rates for conditions that are often detected late.

Public health experts believe the technology could be particularly valuable in aging populations, where early detection of diseases like Alzheimer's or heart disease could help manage rising healthcare burdens.

LIMITATIONS AND ETHICAL QUESTIONS

Despite its potential, the system raises challenges. AI models trained on medical data risk embedding biases, especially if datasets underrepresent certain groups. There are also questions about how much predictive information should be shared with patients. Being told you are at high risk for a disease a decade in advance could be empowering—but also psychologically distressing.

Privacy is another major concern. The AI requires access to vast amounts of sensitive health data, raising the stakes for cybersecurity and data governance. Regulators are expected to scrutinize any deployment closely, especially in countries with strict data protection laws.

COMPETITION IN THE FIELD

This development comes amid a surge of investment in AI-driven healthcare, with companies like Google DeepMind, Microsoft, and smaller biotech startups racing to develop predictive tools. DeepMind's AlphaFold already revolutionized protein structure prediction, and now similar techniques are being applied to early disease forecasting.

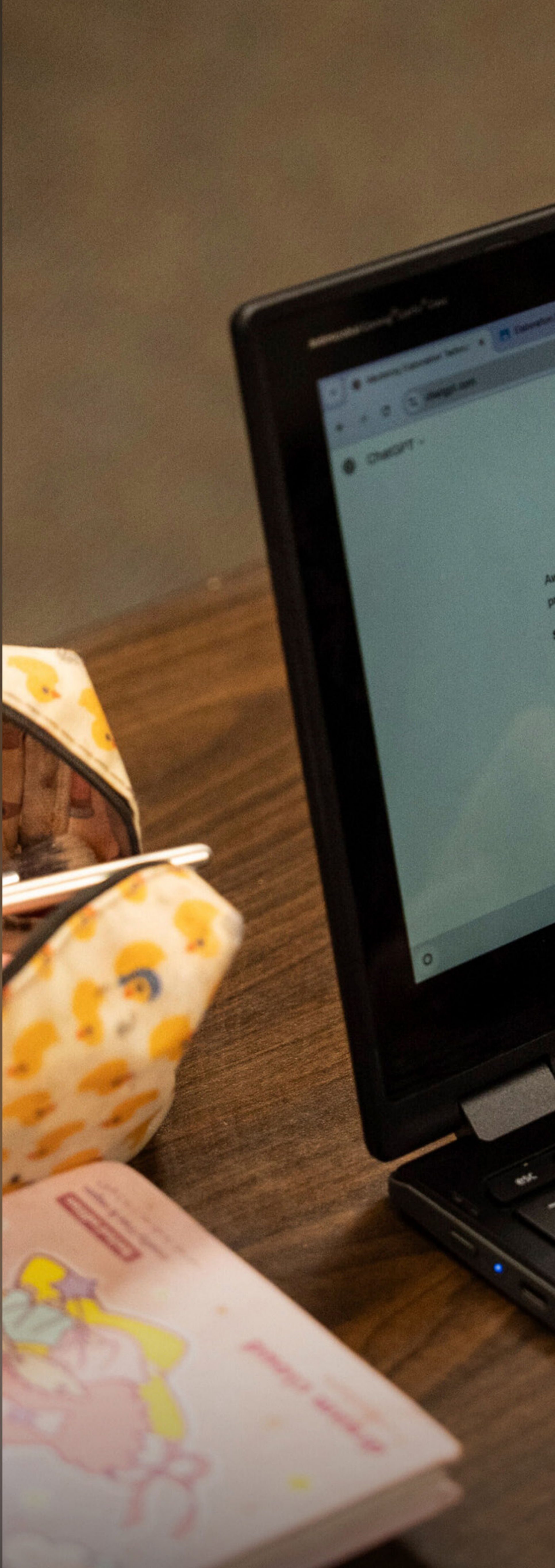
Hospitals are increasingly partnering with tech firms to integrate AI into diagnostics, though experts caution that clinical validation will take years. Any tool predicting diseases a decade in advance will need extensive long-term studies before gaining widespread approval.

WHAT'S NEXT

The research team plans larger clinical trials involving tens of thousands of participants, with a goal of securing regulatory approval within the next five years. If successful, the model could be deployed in hospitals as part of routine checkups, where patients receive long-term risk forecasts alongside traditional tests.

For now, the technology offers a glimpse of a future where doctors can anticipate illnesses long before they arrive—turning healthcare from a reactive system into a truly predictive science.

AI TOOLS FORCE SCHOOLS TO REDEFINE CHEATING IN THE CLASSROOM



Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming the classroom, but it's also blurring the boundaries between legitimate learning and academic dishonesty. As tools like ChatGPT, Claude, and Google Gemini become commonplace in schools and universities, educators are wrestling with how to distinguish between students using AI as a study aid and students crossing the line into cheating.

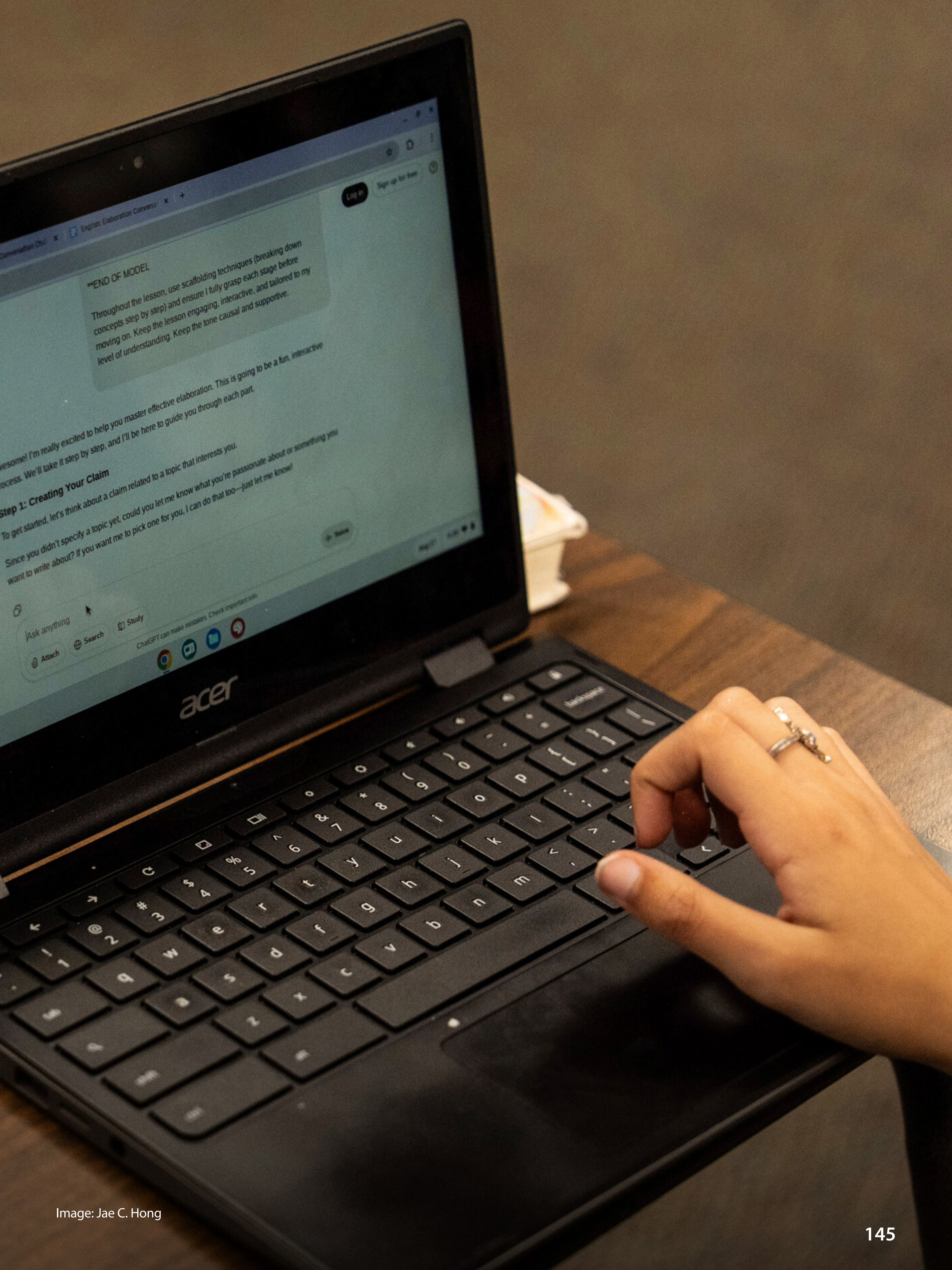

**END OF MODEL
Throughout the lesson, use scaffolding techniques (breaking down concepts step by step) and ensure I fully grasp each stage before moving on. Keep the lesson engaging, interactive, and tailored to my level of understanding. Keep the tone causal and supportive.
wesome! I'm really excited to help you master effective elaboration. This is going to be a fun, interactive
rocess. We'll take it step by step, and I'll be here to guide you through each part.
Step 1: Creating Your Claim
To get started, let's think about a claim related to a topic that interests you.
Since you didn't specify a topic yet, could you let me know what you're passionate about or something you
want to write about? If you want me to pick one for you, I can do that too—just let me know!
Ask anything
Attach
Search
Study
ChatGPT can make mistakes. Check important info.
Log in
Sign up for free
acer

Image: Jae C. Hong

CHEATING OR JUST A NEW KIND OF HELP?

For years, calculators, spellcheckers, and search engines forced schools to rethink what counted as fair use of technology. Now, AI presents an even bigger challenge. Students can use chatbots to draft essays, solve math problems, or even generate code, often in seconds.

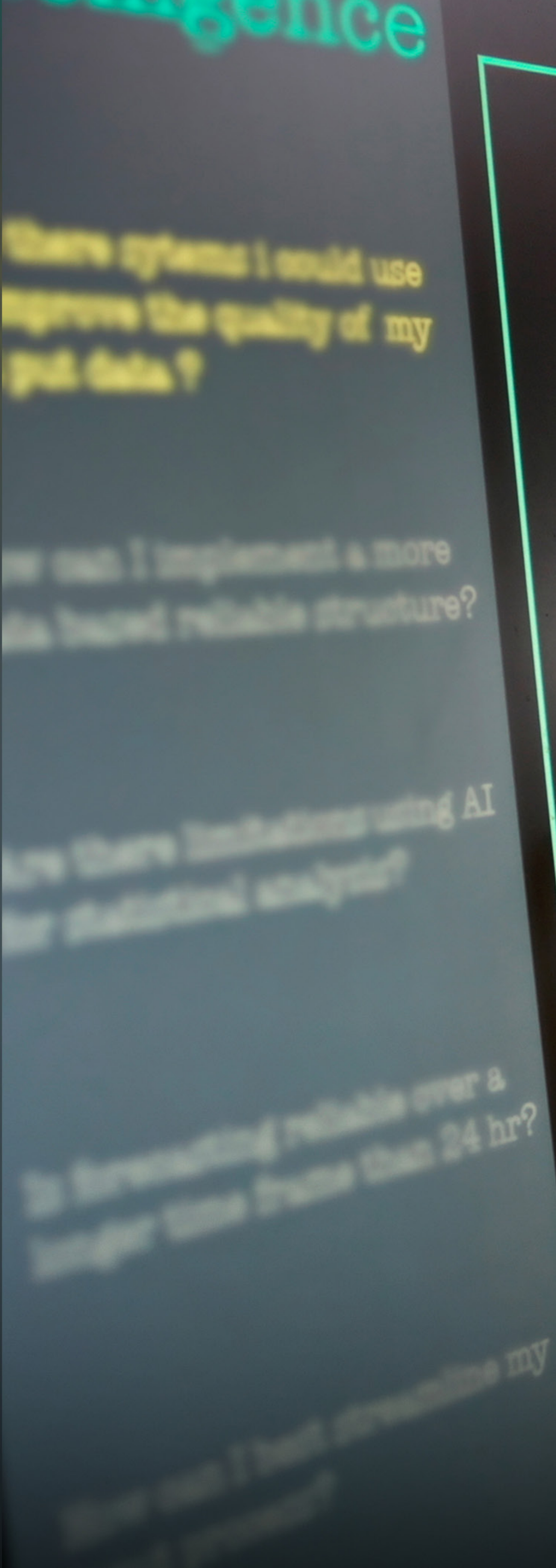
Many teachers say the problem isn't just plagiarism—it's that AI tools can undermine critical thinking. "It's one thing to look up facts," said one high school English teacher in California. "It's another to have an AI write your essay for you. At some point, students stop learning how to express themselves."

At the same time, others argue that banning AI entirely is unrealistic. Students will use these tools in future jobs, so schools must teach them to do so responsibly.

DIFFERENT RESPONSES, UNEVEN POLICIES

Some schools have tried to fight AI use with detection software, though those systems have been shown to produce false positives, wrongly accusing students. Others have shifted assessment methods, moving back toward in-class writing, oral exams, and project-based assignments where AI is harder to use undetected.

Universities are divided. A number of institutions now allow AI as long as it is cited, treating it like a reference source. Others have taken a stricter stance, calling any AI-generated material academic misconduct.



ChatBot
AI
AI

OK I can answer your question in several ways:

1) The neural network that provides you with the math should be constantly monitored

2) Adjustments should be made to any feedback loop providing corrections

3) Statistical data may need to be updated

4) Analysis of that statistical data has to be checked / fact c

the math

5) Inputs have to be reco understood

"Every school is drawing the line differently," said Dr. Sarah Elaine Eaton, an education researcher. "The lack of consistency is confusing for students and teachers alike."

A DEEPER CULTURAL SHIFT

The debate goes beyond plagiarism. AI is challenging the very definition of what it means to learn. If mastering a skill once meant memorizing facts or practicing repetitive tasks, AI now automates much of that. Some educators argue schools should focus less on recall and more on analysis, creativity, and ethics.

Yet the shift is uneven. Wealthier districts are experimenting with AI-enhanced learning platforms, while underfunded schools struggle to provide even basic technology access. That gap risks creating a new digital divide: not just between those who have devices, but between those taught how to use AI critically and those left behind.

PRESSURE ON POLICYMAKERS

The struggle has caught the attention of policymakers. Several U.S. states are drafting guidelines for AI use in classrooms, and the U.K. Department for Education has urged schools to teach "responsible AI literacy" rather than attempt blanket bans. The European Union's AI Act may also influence education policy by requiring age-appropriate safeguards in AI tools used by minors.

Meanwhile, teachers' unions are calling for more training and clearer frameworks, warning that leaving decisions to individual instructors places too much burden on them.

Image: Michael Dwyer

IDEA

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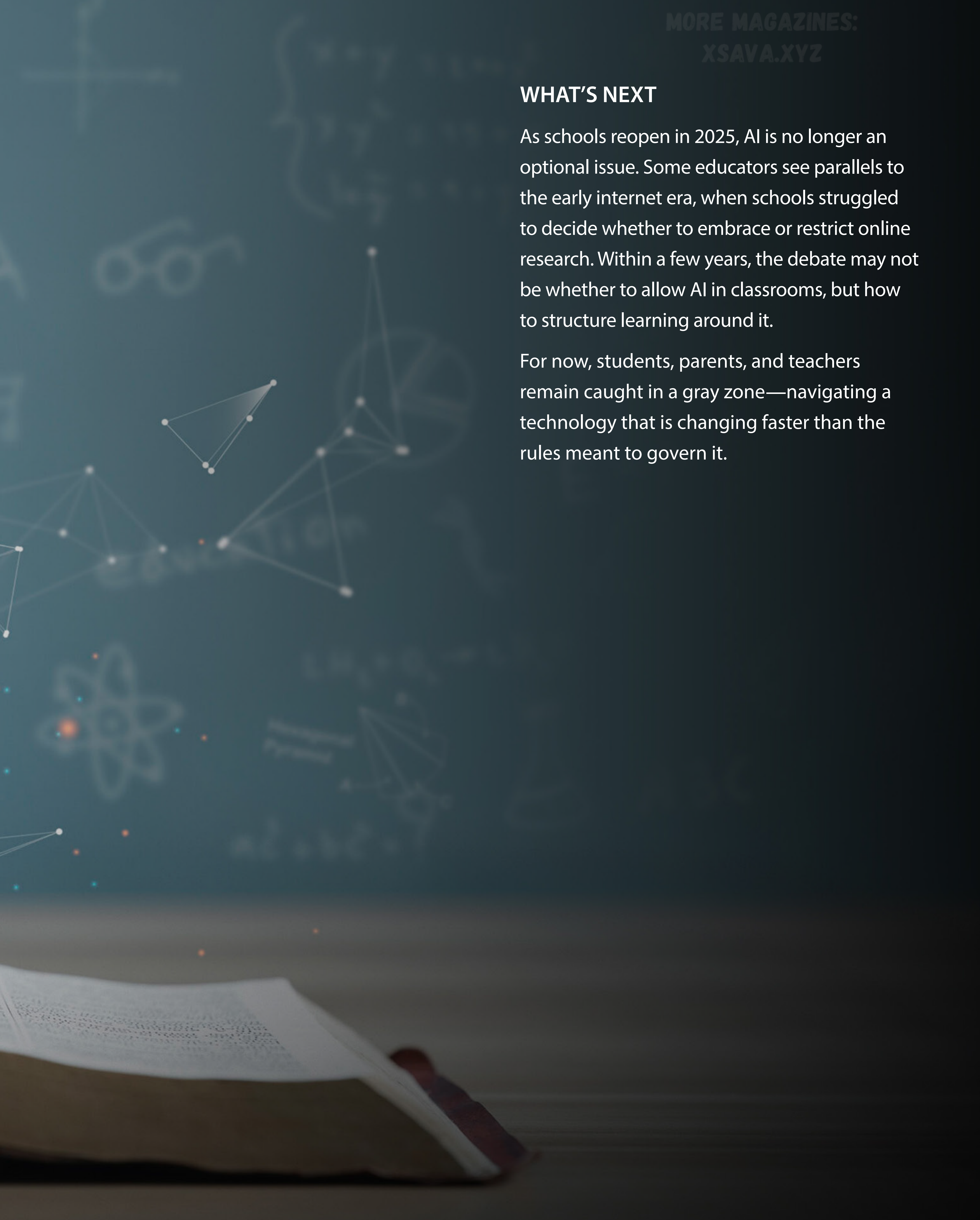
WHAT’S NEXT

As schools reopen in 2025, AI is no longer an optional issue. Some educators see parallels to the early internet era, when schools struggled to decide whether to embrace or restrict online research. Within a few years, the debate may not be whether to allow AI in classrooms, but how to structure learning around it.

For now, students, parents, and teachers remain caught in a gray zone—navigating a technology that is changing faster than the rules meant to govern it.

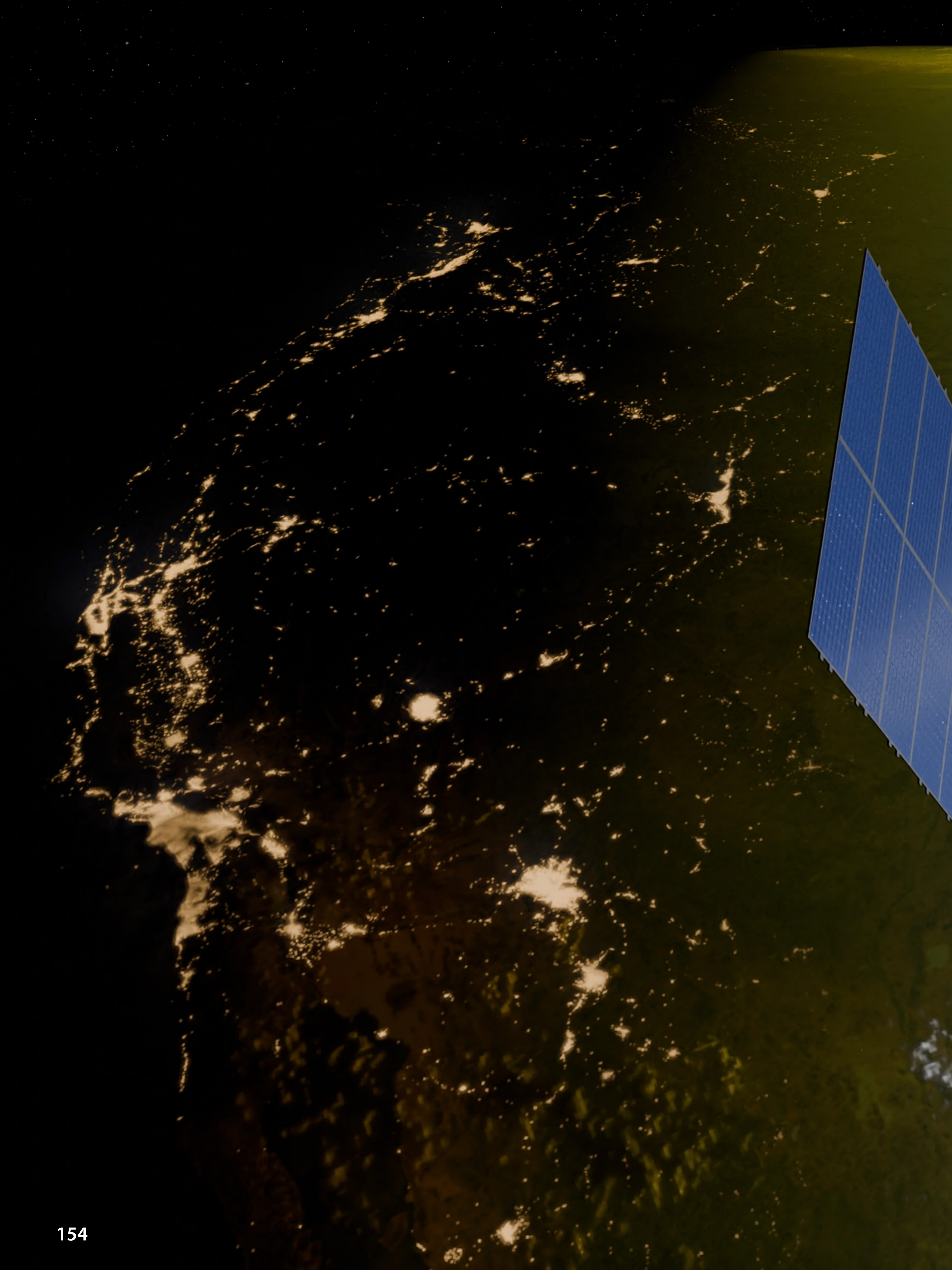


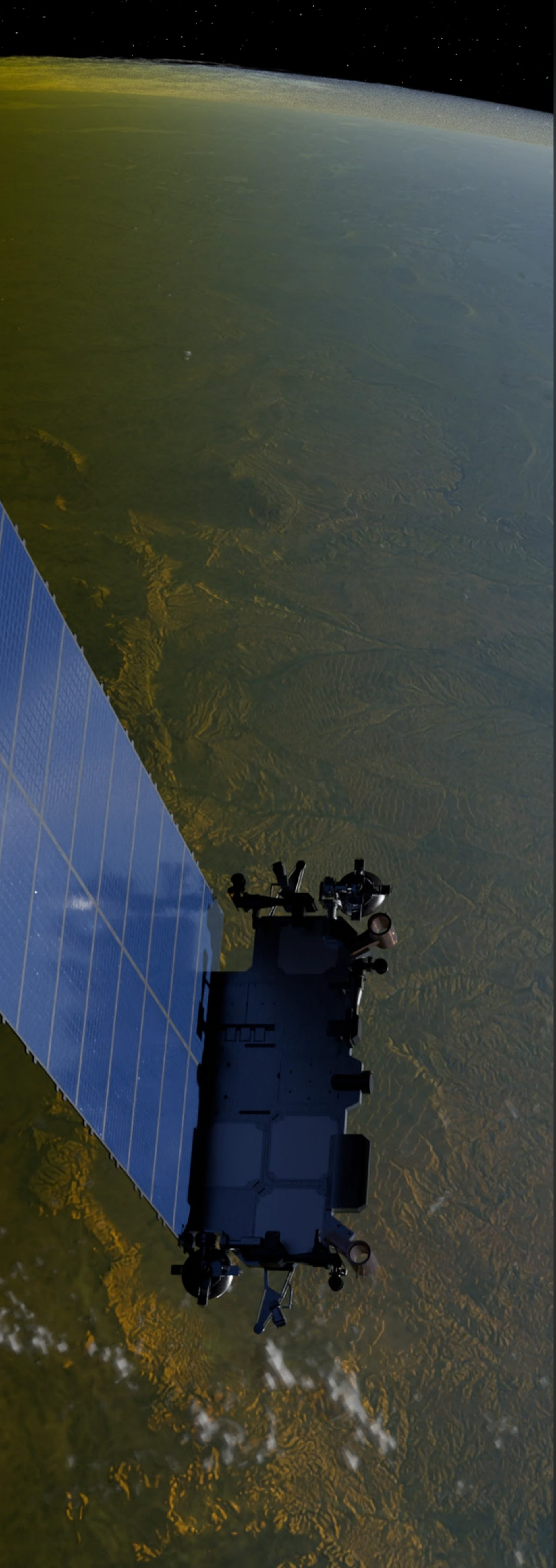
RUSSIA TO LAUNCH SATELLITE INTERNET SERVICE TO RIVAL STARLINK

Russia is preparing to launch its own satellite internet service, positioning it as a direct competitor to SpaceX's Starlink. Officials say the project, which has been in development for several years, is aimed at ensuring the country's digital sovereignty, reducing reliance on foreign technologies, and offering high-speed internet access across remote regions.

A STARLINK RIVAL WITH GEOPOLITICAL STAKES

The Russian initiative, sometimes referred to by insiders as "Sphere," involves a constellation of low-Earth orbit satellites designed to deliver





broadband connectivity across the country and potentially abroad. Much like Starlink, the network will use thousands of satellites to beam internet to ground stations and user terminals.

“Russia cannot depend on foreign satellite infrastructure for critical connectivity,” said a government adviser quoted by Russian state media. “We must build our own system to guarantee sovereignty in cyberspace.”

TECHNICAL PLANS AND CHALLENGES

Russia’s federal space agency Roscosmos has outlined plans to deploy hundreds of satellites in the first phase, with more to follow if the service proves viable. Launches are expected to begin in 2026 using the Angara and Soyuz rockets. The system will require new user terminals, which Russian state-backed firms are reportedly developing.

Still, the technical hurdles are formidable. Building a constellation on the scale of Starlink, which already operates more than 6,000 satellites, requires massive investment, advanced manufacturing, and ground infrastructure. Analysts say Russia will struggle to match SpaceX’s pace without comparable launch cadence or reusable rocket technology.

INTERNET CONTROL AND REGULATION

Unlike Starlink, which markets itself as a global provider, Russia’s satellite internet will operate within the framework of Moscow’s strict internet regulations. Officials have made clear that all traffic will be routed through government-controlled gateways, ensuring compliance with censorship laws.

STARLINK

Critics argue this undermines one of the key advantages of satellite internet—freedom from state interference. Instead, Russia's system could become another extension of the "sovereign internet" policy, which seeks to isolate the country's digital sphere from global networks.

COMPETITION AND MARKET IMPACT

While Russia's service is unlikely to rival Starlink globally, it could have impact regionally. For Russian citizens in underserved areas, it may offer their first reliable broadband option. The government may also attempt to export the system to allied states seeking alternatives to Western-controlled internet infrastructure.

However, commercial success will be difficult. Starlink, OneWeb, Amazon's Project Kuiper, and China's Guowang constellation are already competing fiercely for market share. Russia will have to overcome not only technological disadvantages but also sanctions and limited access to global supply chains, particularly for advanced satellite components.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The push for a national satellite internet service reflects broader efforts by Russia to secure technological independenceamid rising tensions with the West. By creating its own system, Moscow aims to ensure it cannot be cut off from space-based communications, a risk highlighted by its dependence on foreign tech during recent conflicts.

Analysts say the project also underscores how satellite internet is becoming a new arena for great-power competition, with the U.S., China,

STARLINK

and Russia all developing their own constellations. "Space is no longer just about exploration—it's about infrastructure, influence, and control," said one industry expert.

WHAT'S NEXT

Russia has not given a firm launch date, but officials suggest the first satellites could be in orbit by 2026, with pilot services rolling out later that decade. Whether the project achieves scale will depend on funding, technical execution, and whether Russia can sustain its ambitions under international isolation.

For now, the announcement signals that Moscow sees satellite internet not only as a tool for connectivity but as a strategic asset, critical for national security and global influence.

IPHONE 17 PRO MAX IN COSMIC ORANGE SELLS OUT IN US AND INDIA

Apple's bold new cosmic orange color option for the iPhone 17 Pro Max is proving to be a hit, with preorders selling out within hours in major markets including the United States and India. The high-end model, introduced during Apple's September launch event, is now facing weeks-long shipping delays, highlighting both the strength of demand for exclusive finishes and the challenges Apple faces in managing supply for its flagship phones.

COSMIC ORANGE MAKES A SPLASH

Apple has a long history of using color to create buzz, but the cosmic orange edition appears to have struck a particular chord. Market analysts say the hue—positioned as premium and distinct from Apple's usual palette of silver, space black, gold, and natural titanium—has tapped into consumer appetite for standout designs in a market where smartphones are increasingly similar in form.

In the U.S., Apple's online store shows the cosmic orange iPhone 17 Pro Max shipping as late as mid-November for certain configurations, while other colors remain available for delivery in September. In India, one of Apple's fastest-growing markets, the model sold out almost immediately on Apple's own store and major retail platforms like Flipkart and Amazon India.

WHY SUPPLY IS TIGHT

Part of the shortage may stem from production challenges. According to supply chain reports, Apple's new titanium chassis process combined with the more complex anodization required for cosmic orange has led to lower initial yields compared to other finishes. Manufacturers

in India and China are reportedly ramping up production to meet the unexpected surge in demand.

“Apple knows color sells, but even they may not have predicted just how hot this version would be,” said one analyst. “Cosmic orange is now the must-have status symbol of this iPhone generation.”

A STRATEGY THAT PAYS OFF

Apple has leaned heavily on colors as part of its marketing strategy in recent years. Special editions such as Product(RED) and previous seasonal colors have often driven mid-cycle sales. With the iPhone 17 lineup, the company appears to have elevated that playbook by making cosmic orange available only on the Pro Max variant, the most expensive in the lineup.

By tying the color exclusively to its priciest model, Apple has effectively nudged many buyers toward its highest-margin product. Early sales data suggests a larger-than-expected share of preorders are skewing toward the Pro Max, boosting Apple’s average selling price at a time when the broader smartphone market remains flat.

INDIA’S ROLE IN THE STORY

The rapid sellout in India underscores the country’s growing importance in Apple’s global strategy. With manufacturing already expanding across five plants there, Apple is not only using India as a production hub but also as a key consumer market. High demand for the Pro Max shows that Indian buyers are increasingly willing to spend at the top end of the smartphone spectrum, an encouraging sign for Apple's long-term growth outside of China.

LOOKING AHEAD

For now, Apple has not commented on restock timelines, but suppliers expect availability to improve by late October as yield rates for the orange finish stabilize. Until then, cosmic orange iPhone 17 Pro Max units will likely remain scarce—and may even fuel a resale market with markups.

The frenzy reflects a familiar Apple dynamic: when a new color catches on, it becomes more than a design choice. It becomes a marker of early adoption and exclusivity, exactly the kind of halo Apple thrives on to keep demand high for its flagship devices.

YOUR BRAND HAS NEVER BEEN IN SUCH GOOD COMPANY

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SPECIAL EDITION" Spirits were high at Apple's "There's more in the making" event, which was held at the Howard Gilman Opera House in Brooklyn, New York on October 30. Hot off the heels of the launch of the new iPhone XS, XS Max and XR, Tim Cook and Co were ready to show off next-generation models of two of the company's most beloved products: the Mac, and the iPad. Introducing a whole host of new editions, this was an Apple event to

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